

RIL 17, 1988
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Meningitis kills over 700 in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — The worst meningitis epidemic in 20 years has claimed 747 lives so far, and doctors blamed unpredictable warm weather and little government efforts for the spread of the disease. According to figures from the United Nations Children's Fund and the Health Ministry, 747 people died since late February and 10,675 people were hit with the disease that causes inflammation of the brain or spinal chord membranes. "It is the worst epidemic in Sudan in 20 years," said a UNICEF spokeswoman. At Omdurman's government-owned hospital, which treated some 3,500 cases, tens of patients lay on the dusty ground in tents or outdoors while doctors examined them. They were waiting for up to 48 hours before being transferred to a hospital with vacant beds. Managing Director Fawzi Malek said he witnessed as many as 30 deaths a day from some 140 admitted cases at the height of the epidemic. "The last major vaccination campaign in Sudan was three years ago," he said. Since the duration of the vaccine is three years, the government should have anticipated this epidemic and made preparations for it.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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King sends good wishes to Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Assad on the occasion of Syria's Independence Day. The King wished Assad continued health and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity. Addressing a Damascus rally to mark independence day, Syrian Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa said Sunday that Syria was determined to achieve military parity with Israel. Reuter reported. Masharqa said Syria's "major independence day" would be celebrated only when occupation forces left all Arab territories. "Syria believes that the big independence day will be celebrated when the fast colonialist and aggressor is evacuated from all parts of the Arab Nation." He said Damascus would work to build a strong economic base to achieve this. Masharqa said strategic parity with Israel — the declared aim of Assad — would be achieved with the help of the Arab masses and socialist countries, chiefly the Soviet Union.

Israel bans press from occupied lands

Palestinians mourn Wazir with marches and demonstrations

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli army sealed off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Sunday as Palestinians mourned the death of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir by staging marches and observing a general strike. At least eight Palestinians were reported shot and wounded before the army banned the press from the occupied territories.

Palestinian uprising began Dec. 9, claiming the lives of at least 165 Palestinians and two Israelis. Wazir (Abu Jihad) was deputy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. He was military planner for the PLO's mainstream Fatah and the main PLO coordinator with the uprising.

For the second day, Israeli leaders refused to comment on charges that their agents murdered Wazir. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, asked by Reuters to comment on reports that Israeli agents gunned down Abu Jihad in front of his wife and daughter, replied: "I am not here."

At its weekly meeting, the Israeli government did not allude to the killing in Tunis, cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubenstein said. "Escalating the uprising" At the home of Wazir's cousin Ahmad, in the Gaza Strip, a tent was raised for Palestinians who wanted to pay condolences. "Wazir's murder will only increase the intifada (uprising). He was a good man, he loved his people, he worked for his people and this is a crime," Ahmad Wazir said.

An army spokeswoman said most of the main cities in the West Bank and Gaza were closed to the press Sunday. Troops clamped a curfew on 15 refugee camps in the West Bank, the village of Anabta and the city of Nablis.

In the Gaza Strip, the refugee camps of Jabalya, Shati, and Nusseirat were under curfew. The army also put Abassan, several neighbourhoods in Rafah and Khan Yunis camp under curfew, the spokeswoman said.

Hundreds of black flags flew for the second consecutive day in the occupied areas. Palestinians held general strikes throughout the territories.

In the Gaza Strip, where

King receives Ramadan greetings

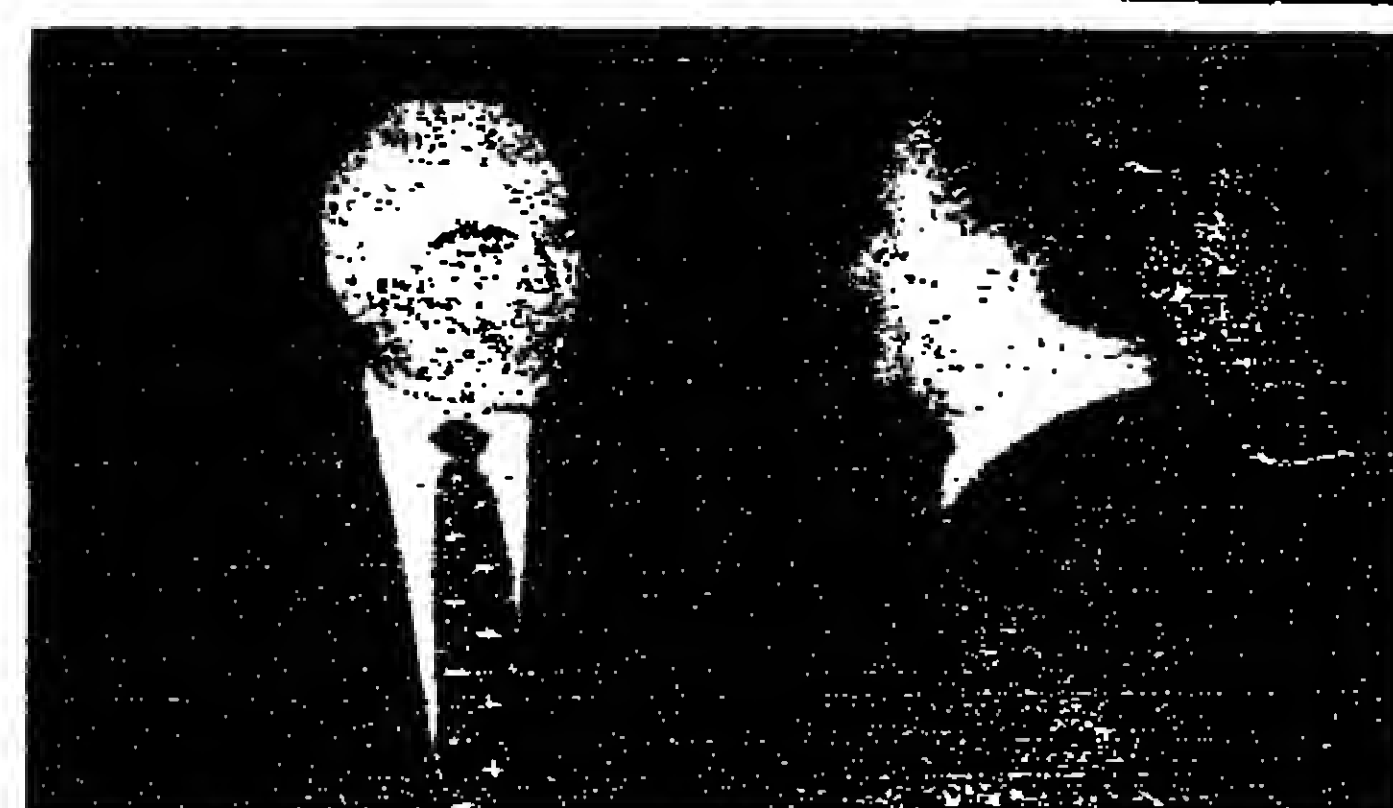
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from Arab and Islamic leaders on the occasion of the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The cables came from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman, President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Emir Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti and President Mamoun Abdul Qayyum of the Maldives.

King Hussein also received congratulatory cables from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa, Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khalifa Ibn Zayed Al Nahayan, UAE Vice-President Sheikh Rashed Ibn Said Al Maktoum, Ajman Emir Sheikh Humaid Ibn Rashed Al Nu'eimi and Fajera Emir Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Al Shureiki.

Crown Prince leaves for Singapore and Japan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath left for Singapore Sunday on a two-day official visit in response to an invitation by the Prime Minister of Singapore. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were at the airport to bid farewell to Their Highnesses, who will visit Japan after Singapore.

In Singapore, the Crown Prince will hold talks with senior officials on bilateral relations, means for further boosting cooperation and visit industrial and economic sectors, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon the Crown Prince's departure Sunday for Singapore and Japan (Petra photo)

The Crown Prince is accompanied by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Planning Minister Taher Kanaan, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, Minister for Prime Minister Affairs Fayed Al Tarawneh, Royal Scientific Society President Jawad Al Anani and Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem. Seeing off the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath were senior officials and the Japanese and Indian ambassadors to Jordan.

Iraqis recapture parts of Fao peninsula from Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday its troops backed by units of the elite Presidential Guard staged a two-pronged attack and retook part of the southern Iraqi Fao peninsula, occupied by Iran in early 1986. A correspondent for the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported seeing the bodies of thousands of Iranian troops on the battlefield and said in his dispatch that large numbers also were captured.

Iraq's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) denied the Iraqi report, saying the attackers were driven back by Iranian Revolutionary Guards with hundreds of Iraqi casualties.

Tehran Radio, however, reported "heavy fighting" in the Fao area Sunday evening and claimed Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against the Iranian forces there.

Iraq said it fired six missiles into Tehran and one of the long-range missiles into the southern city of Shiraz, bringing the number fired into Tehran to 132 since Feb. 29.

Tehran Radio said the latest missile attacks killed nine people and damaged homes and shops. "Your sons have advanced in the Fao sector to liberate our soil and trample upon anyone who dares to attack great Iraq," said a military communique quoted by INA.

It said pitched battles were being fought Sunday in the offensive launched Saturday night in the marshy peninsula, which juts out into the Gulf and straddles Iraq's only sea entrance.

The agency said Iraqi forces had taken the "saline area," referring to the southern half of the peninsula which is waterlogged much of the year, but also includes a salt evaporator lake.

The area is hundreds of square kilometers but only a small part was occupied by the Iraqis. The agency also said coastal regions along the saline area were "completely liberated."

A communique it quoted later said Iran had suffered "massive losses in men, and thousands of enemy troops, killed or wounded, are littering the battlefield."

The agency said Iraqi forces in



Hijackers air new appeal by hostage

ALGIERS (AP) — A passenger aboard the hijacked Jumbo jet appealed to the Kuwaiti government Sunday to release the 17 convicted extremists in Kuwaiti jails, and said the hostages faced a "black end" unless the government complied.

A man who identified himself as Suleiman Farhan Doukhi, speaking in a firm voice in Arabic said: "All the passengers are in good health. I hope the Kuwait government will act quickly to liberate the 17 young prisoners. Otherwise we all face a black end."

Doukhi also sent "greetings to the Kuwait people, to my mother and father and to all those who miss me."

The message appeared to be a recording. On Friday, the hijackers brought two other passengers to the aircraft's radio to make similar statements to the broadcast to the control tower.

Since the Kuwait Airways flight was hijacked enroute from Bangkok to Kuwait April 5, the hijackers single demand has been

for the release of the 17 extremists, jailed for bombing the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait in December 1983.

Kuwait has refused to give way.

Algerian officials said Sunday that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat was expected in Algiers, but declined to say when he would arrive or whether he would play a role in the negotiations for release of the 35 hostages.

In the morning of the 13th day of the crisis, Algerian authorities abruptly expelled hundreds of print and television reporters from the section of the VIP lounge where they had been allowed to stay for nearly a week while awaiting the outcome of the hijack drama.

Reporters moved into tents, erected by Algerian security men, on the lawn near the lounge.

At about the same time, Algerian policemen, armed with pistols, took up position on the roof

(Continued on page 5)

King, Arab leaders send condolences to Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat expressing deep grief over the assassination of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

"I send you deep condolences on the death of Mr. Wazir who was murdered by criminal hands," the King said in the cable, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

"We mourn with deepest sympathy and regret the loss of one of the most prominent Palestinian figures, who sacrificed his life to relieve Palestinians from oppression," the King said.

He added that "along with his colleagues in the Palestinian leadership, Wazir has worked hard to regain the Palestinians' legitimate rights."

Similar messages were sent by most Arab leaders to Arafat, according to news agency reports.

Wazir was shot to death by a group of gunmen who stormed his home in Tunis early Saturday. PLO officials in Tunis blamed Wazir's assassination on the Israeli secret service.

PLO offices in Amman were closed for three days as a mark of respect for Abu Jihad, Reuter reported.

Body to be flown to Amman for burial Tuesday; NBC reports Israeli cabinet approved killing PLO leaders weigh response to Abu Jihad assassination

TUNIS (Agencies) — The leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was meeting Sunday to plan its response to the killing of its deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir and chalk out a new strategy with the demises of the man widely regarded as the PLO's mastermind behind coordinating the 18-week-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif and Ahmad Abdul Rahman announced that the body of Wazir, popularly known as Abu Jihad, would be flown to Amman for burial Tuesday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to Tunis early Sunday from Saudi Arabia to mourn his longtime comrade and chair a meeting of top PLO leaders to decide how the PLO should respond to what is universally regarded as a killing by Israeli agents.

Close aide Salah Khalaf and PLO factional leaders Nayef Hawatmeh and George Habash were expected to attend the meeting with other members of the leadership.

The Israeli government has not denied PLO and Arab League accusations that it was responsible and the Israeli press takes for granted that the raid was the

work of the Israeli secret service. Around seven attackers, including a woman, gunned down Abu Jihad at his home in the Sid Bou Said seaside suburb of Tunis. Two bodyguards and a chauffeur also died. The killers escaped.

Wazir's wife Intissar told the Tunisian daily Al Hurriyyan: "My baby of two years and eight months, who saw what happened, asked me: 'what's my daddy doing asleep?'"

After hearing four bursts of gunfire, "I turned towards the wall and prayed, waiting for my turn. It never came."

Wazir was the highest-ranking PLO leader assassinated since 1973 when three PLO officials, including the organisation's spokesman, were murdered in Beirut.

A preliminary report by Tunisian investigators said the attackers burst into Wazir's home at

1:30 a.m. Saturday (2230 GMT Friday) armed with machine-guns and revolvers fitted with silencers.

Three getaway vehicles — two Volkswagen minibuses and a Peugeot 305 saloon — were found in the wooded Raoud coastal area north of Tunis, prompting speculation the attackers fled by sea. But one senior PLO official said the vehicles could have been left there to put investigators off the scent.

Tunisian security forces have not found any evidence the killers left by sea and they could still be in the country, the official told Reuters.

Spokesman Abu Sharif told Reuters that between 30 and 40 attackers carried out the assassination, with some seven or eight entering the house and the rest

(Continued on page 5)

Najibullah underlines resolve to retain power

MOSCOW (AP) — Afghan President Najibullah has warned rebels fighting his government that they would face the "iron will" of his people after Soviet troops leave.

Najibullah, speaking Saturday in the Afghan capital of Kabul, appeared to dismiss predictions by military specialists and Western politicians that his government would not survive long without the support of the 115,000 Soviet troops, scheduled to start withdrawing May 15.

Speaking about the rebels, he said: "In the name of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the name of the Afghan people, I want to warn them with all resolve that they risk encountering the iron will of the people."

The Soviet news agency TASS said Najibullah made the remarks to Afghan officials and other citizens celebrating Thursday's signing in Geneva of agreements in which Afghanistan and Pakistan pledge not to interfere in one another's affairs.

Najibullah acknowledged that rebels have vowed to continue the fighting that began 10 years ago, but he said Soviet soldiers could return home now because the Geneva accords guarantee Afghanistan's sovereignty.

"We said long ago and often that as soon as the threat to Afghanistan's sovereignty passes, the Soviet troops would go home. The whole world can now be convinced that we keep our word," Najibullah said.

Under the Geneva accords, the Soviet Union is to pull half its troops out of Afghanistan in three months and the rest after six additional months. That will leave Najibullah with 75,000 Afghan soldiers to battle a nationwide insurgency.

President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan said Thursday that Afghanistan's government would not be able to survive long under rebel fire after the Soviets withdraw. Most U.S. analysts believe Najibullah's government will collapse under or after the Soviet withdrawal.

Carlsson threatens to ban Swedish arms exports

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has threatened to ban all his country's arms exports because of a series of scandals involving illegal weapons sales to the Middle East and the Third World.

In a speech to Social Democratic Party supporters Saturday evening, Carlsson accused his country's weapons producers of flouting the law and damaging Sweden's reputation abroad.

"In my long political life, I have never come across another industrial sector in which respect for the law and national responsibility were so obviously thrust aside," he said.

this important sector... or Swedish weapon exports must be strongly limited or stopped altogether," Carlsson said.

In the past two years, neutral Sweden has been racked by a series of arms scandals. The country, which has had no wars since 1809, is an outspoken supporter of international disarmament and bans the export of weapons to countries at war or liable to become involved in conflicts.

Carlsson, who faces what looks like being a tight general election in September, said Sweden's role as a promoter of world peace had been severely dented by the scandals.

French hostages 'missed two chances'

PARIS (R) — France's three hostages in Lebanon came close to being freed twice in the past two weeks but each time the deal with their kidnappers fell through, according to diplomatic and government sources.

The sources said the collapse appeared to be caused by the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, now in its 13th day, and no progress was possible until the crisis was resolved.

It was now unlikely the three hostages could be freed in time for voting in presidential elections next Sunday as the government of rightist Prime Minister Jacques Chirac apparently hoped, the sources said.

Chirac, leading challenger to Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, has secured the release of seven out of 10 French hostages held in Lebanon thanks to a

policy of improving ties with Iran. A senior Western diplomat said at the weekend the release of the three hostages — embassy officials Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann — had been imminent for the past two weeks.

The diplomat said Washington had been enquiring insistently to find out the price of the deal.

The three Frenchmen were kidnapped by the shadowy Islamic Jihad which also holds American hostages.

Marcel Kauffmann, the kidnapped journalist's father, told Reuters he had been advised by official sources that all three hostages would be freed by their captors April 11.

But he said he realised the deal had fallen through when he heard on the news that Islamic Jihad

had threatened to kill its French and American hostages if any attempt were made to storm the hijacked Kuwaiti Jumbo.

"That news was a cold shower — especially as we had been led to understand exactly the contrary only half an hour before," he said from his home in Brittany.

A French official source said a second date for freeing the three was fixed for last Saturday, with a plane scheduled to fly from Paris to Beirut to pick them up, but again the arrangement fell through.

The leftist magazine Le Nouvel Observateur reported that the freedom deal collapsed due to disputes between Iran and Islamic Jihad over who should receive a ransom of 20 million francs (\$3.5 million).

Kenya reports massacre by cattle rustlers

NAIROBI (AP) — Cattle rustlers killed 192 villagers and injured 50 in a dawn raid on 30 nomadic camps in Kenya's remote northwestern district of Turkana, the government said Sunday. The sky over the massacre scene was black with vul-

tures and on the ground hyenas and other wild animals scavenged bodies of the victims, reported the Sunday Nation, an independent newspaper. Laban Kiele, a minister of state in the office of the president, said police tracked and killed about 40 of the gang of 50 rustlers. Their search was aided by recent heavy rains in the district. The rest of the rustlers escaped across the border to Sudan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma chairs one of the meetings of QAF's board of trustees (File photo)

Queen Alia Fund: A decade of development and achievement

The following is an introduction to a pamphlet issued on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund. The introduction is by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, the fund's chairperson.

THE Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund celebrates its eleventh year this year. Though still a young institution the Fund embarks upon a new decade of work with ten years of invaluable experience behind it, derived from quiet but unstinting service.

If we are satisfied and proud of our achievements during the past decade, such pride and satisfaction do not preclude our reassessment of that period. Such an attitude guarantees greater efficiency and a deeper concern for the future, and offers our countrymen continued hope and optimism.

Since 1977, when His Majesty King Hussein asked me to undertake the noble duty of establishing the Queen Alia Fund, our main concerns and objectives as a

private, non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation have been to supplement the development of Jordan's social welfare services and to help meet the increasing demands of a Jordanian society that continues to grow and diversify. Thus the fund adopted a clear policy of "people" as the focal point of its efforts, and of confidence in ourselves and in the future as the key theme of our aspirations.

From this beginning, the Fund set off on its way to realise its targets, reaching people in towns, villages and bedouin settlements alike. Building on this powerful conviction, the Fund has been able to identify our people's social needs, and accordingly has offered services in many rural and urban areas. Hopes and inten-

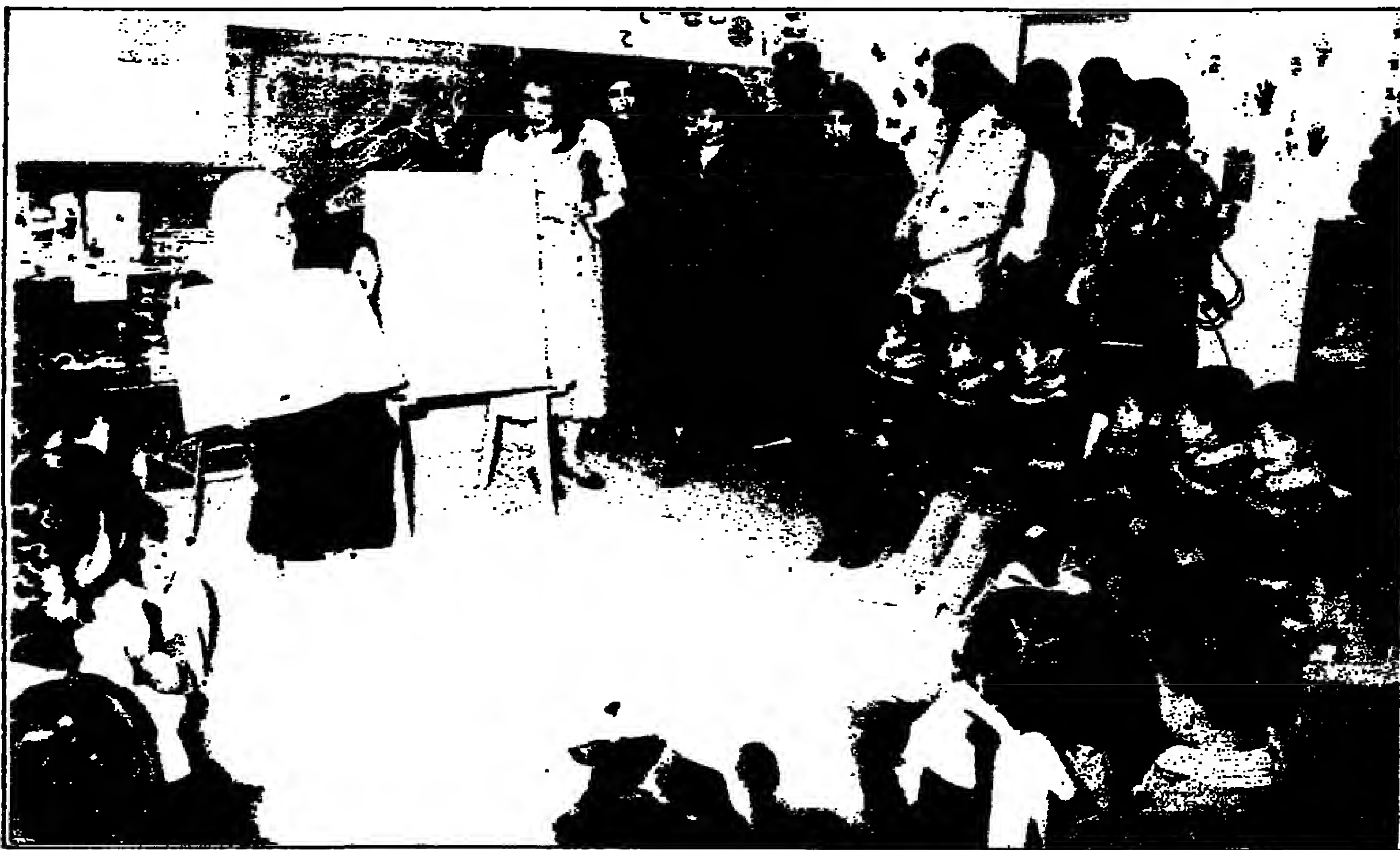
tions were always moulded into working programmes which resulted in the establishment of many social centres and centres for the disabled, as well as in supporting the activities of charitable societies on both banks of the Kingdom, with the full cooperation of government agencies and private institutions.

The Fund has exerted substantial efforts to realise and maintain the quality of its social services, so that the quantitative aspects of our work should not outweigh the qualitative ones. This proved to be an effective response to the needs of the less fortunate and the disadvantaged sectors of our communities. During the last ten years, the Fund managed to complete many projects in various fields of social welfare work, particularly in the area of training sessions for mothers of the disabled. In fact, achievements here have ranked Jordan among the leaders in this field in the Third

World.

Our ambitions and responsibilities are great, though the finances available to us are, unfortunately, insufficient. There is still much to be done, for many people throughout the Kingdom still lack social services. The Queen Alia Fund looks forward to providing these people with needed services, so that they may look forward to a better and prosperous future.

On this occasion, it gives me great pleasure to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all who backed us and stood beside us, and who will continue to do in the future, whether they are from our sister Arab states or from friendly countries abroad. We thank them sincerely for all the support they have extended in the past and for the support they intend to extend in the future — support which will enable us to continue our good and vital work. May God bless you.



Princess Basma during a visit to one of the fund's day-care centres (File photo)

Peace through an atmosphere of trust

The following is the statement made by Dr. Hazem Nusseibeh, the head of Jordan's parliamentary delegation to the 79th Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in Guatemala City between April 11 and 16.

IT GIVES me happiness to express to the government and people of Guatemala our appreciation for the warm hospitality afforded to the 79th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in this beautiful city, to discuss as parliamentarians, ways and means of strengthening world peace, security, and global prosperity by an atmosphere of trust in interstate relations.

Needless to stress that world peace, security, and prosperity have become irretrievably indivisible in the present age. Our paramount task, therefore, is to dedicate ourselves to ensuring that peace and prosperity are not the exclusive domain of some areas of the world to the exclusion of others. This is not only a moral imperative but a compelling and inescapable practical need as well.

Jordan is at the heart of an area, a vital and extensive area astride three continents, which has been suffering the awesome consequences of the absence of peace. Immediately adjacent is the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights where, over four months, the Palestinian people have arisen in a great uprising to achieve their liberation from foreign Israeli occupation, oppression, colonisation, strangulation, and eventual destruction.

This great epic in the annals of human liberation which continues unabated until its goals are achieved, has endured against seemingly impossible odds and colossal suffering by men, women, and children in every town, village, and refugee camp. It is a testimony to the indomitable spirit of a people who, though totally unarmed, are determined to throw off the yoke of enslavement and oppression, and to achieve national and human redemption.

Many have been martyred in this unequal struggle. More than five thousand have so far been wounded by gunfire, gasses, and lethal beatings which shattered many a body and limb. TV crews have filmed unspeakable scenes of atrocities including the burial of four teenagers alive and, a forty-minute bone shattering of a Palestinian teenager by four Israeli soldiers. Homes throughout the occupied territories are being raided at night by Israeli troops, beating and pillaging the innocent inhabitants, including elderly men, women, and children. In short, the occupied territories have been turned into a large prison and schools have been turned into concentration camps to house an almost ten thousand detainees.

Surely, the blood-letting, destruction and paralysis must come to an end. Jordan which has always supported a peaceful and not a military solution calls for the convening of an international conference in which the five permanent members of the

Security Council should participate and all parties concerned including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to seek a just and lasting resolution to this forty-year old tragedy and suffering.

The eight-year old war of devastation between Iran and Iraq must be given the most urgent attention, with a view to bringing pressure to bear to achieve its immediate cessation.

There is a universal consensus behind Security Council Resolution 598 for ending the war. Iraq has unequivocally accepted the resolution since its adoption in July 1987. Iran has rejected the resolution and its rejection has tragically and without any plausible or acceptable reasons prolonged the war and brought about additional suffering and destruction to both sides, to the Middle East as a whole and to world commerce and shipping which caused foreign naval presence in the region.

A rejection of Resolution 598 can only mean a rejection of peace in direct challenge to the will of the international community. It is our duty as parliamentarians to call upon Iran to heed the will of the entire world and spare the people of the region further suffering and destruction.

Once again, the thirteen-year old agony of the Lebanese people continues without resolution. Israel continues to occupy portions of Lebanese territory in the south in the so-called "security zone." Such unlawful occupation has naturally prompted a valiant resistance movement to expel the aggressor. Caught in the fighting are Lebanese towns, villages, and Palestinian refugee camps which fall victim to Israeli air, land, and sea bombardment causing numerous casualties and widespread destruction. As parliamentarians, we should strongly demand prompt Israeli withdrawal in conformity with U.N. resolutions and the inviolability and sovereignty of the state of Lebanon.

These and other Middle East issues were given utmost attention at the Arab summit conference held in the Jordanian capital Amman last November under the most ardent and wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

While welcoming wholeheartedly the American-Soviet accord on the simultaneous withdrawal of intermediate missiles from Europe and seeking to resolve regional conflicts such as Afghanistan, we look forward to further progress on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic ballistic missiles and trust-building measures at the forthcoming superpower summit in Moscow, to achieve, as item three on our agenda states, "Peace and development in the world by creating an atmosphere of trust in interstate relations leading to the adoption of purely defensive military concepts."



Princess Fahrelnissa Zaid

Princess Fahrelnissa Zaid receives French award

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At a reception held Saturday night, Her Royal Highness Princess Fahrelnissa Zaid was decorated as "Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres."

Presented on behalf of the French government by French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq, the decoration, the highest in its category, was bestowed upon the Princess in recognition of her contribution to art in both France and the world. The Princess is the first person to have received such a high award in Jordan.

In his presentation speech Leclercq likened meeting the Princess to a feast. "When meeting you, everything appears as a feast" he said, "the sparkling of your personality, your curiosity always on the alert, your constant interest in others, your capacity for finding life in all its manifestations... all leads to a feast. To meet you, to be with you, is to live, in the proper sense, an extraordinary moment."

Leclercq then went on to talk about the Princess' connections with his own country, which began in 1927 when the Princess went to study at the Académie Ranson. "That is where the click took place that linked you for so long with France and made of you an incomparable hyphen between

the Bosphorus and the Seine, between the eastern Mediterranean and our western shores between... the Byzantine, Persian, Cretean, Oriental and the artistic and pictorial swarming of the French capital."

Closing his speech with a tribute to her remarkable personality, Leclercq ended "for what you are, for your dazzling artistic work, for the contribution it found in my country, I... bestow upon you the insignia of Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres."

The Princess now in her 87th year was visibly moved and expressed her delight at receiving the award in a short speech which was delivered by her son, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd.

The Princess, since her return to Jordan in 1975, has established the Fahrelnissa Zaid Institute for Fine Arts, her students going on to hold many exhibitions both at home and abroad to wide acclaim.

The Princess herself has held several exhibitions here in Jordan, most notably her huge retrospective at the Royal Cultural Centre in 1983. Since last September the Princess has been working with stained glass creating in this difficult media her own uniquely original pictures which will be exhibited at the Royal Cultural Centre at the end of May.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00	Koran
14:30	Programme review
14:35	Cartoons
14:40	Children's programme
15:00	Religious programme
15:15	Children's programme (The Thousand and One Nights)
15:45	Arabic play
16:30	Programme on Cooking
16:50	Religious programme
17:20	A programme on benefit of fasting (health and fasting)
17:25	Arabic series "Five" (Ep. 2)
18:20	Koranic lessons
18:35	Religious programme
19:00	Koran
19:13	The call to prayer (Al Maghrib)
19:20	Religious programme
19:30	Tunisia News Message
19:45	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:35	Arabic series
21:00	Ramadan puzzles
21:05	Arabic programme
21:30	News summary
21:35	Arabic series
24:00	Varieties
01:30	Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	Louis XI
19:15	News in French
19:30	Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Are You Being Served?
21:10	Secret Army
21:30	News in English
22:20	Feature film: "Massacre at Fourth Holman"

RADIO JORDAN

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PROGRAMME ONE

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Just a Minute
11:00	Good Vibrations
11:30	Readings
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Contin.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Special Feature
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites

PROGRAMME TWO

07:00	Newsdesk
07:30	VOA Morning 07:30 VOA
08:00	VOA Morning 08:00 News
08:30	VOA Morning 08:30 News
09:00	VOA Morning 09:00 News
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

8:00-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

EXHIBITIONS

* Art exhibition by Mohammad Boukris and Mousira Al Tamsiah at the Housing Bank Gallery.
* From Gutenberg to Electronics Dar el Tili Goethe Institute.

* An art exhibition by Mohammad Abu Zaid at the Alia Art Gallery.
* Exhibition of photographs of Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILMS

* "You can't take it with you" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.
* "Great Expectations" at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
British Council .. 641520
French Cultural Centre .. 6361478
Goethe Institute .. 637009
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Hussein Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 6:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661577.
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, near Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shuaibani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

16:15	Amman (RJ)
16:20	Laraca (RJ)
16:30	Cairo (RJ)
16:35	Damascus (RJ)
16:38	Moscow, Dubai (RJ)
16:40	Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
16:50	Dhahran (RJ)
16:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
17:15	Helsinki (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:35	New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:45	Bangkok (RJ)
19:55	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
00:55	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

16:20	Sana'a (LH)
16:35	Cairo (MS)
16:40	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
16:45	Moscow, Bahrain (GP)
16:50	Beirut (MB)
16:55	Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:00	Amman (RJ)
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Paris (RJ)
12:45	Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
16:35	Beirut (RJ)
16:50	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:55	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
09:15	Beirut (MEA)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
14:00	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
14:30	Bahrain (GP)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates

Belgian franc	95.8/97.3
Dutch guilder	178.9/181.6
French franc	59.3/60.1
Italian lira	271/274
Japanese yen (for 100)	268.4/273
Swedish crown	56.9/57.8
Swiss franc	242.7/246.5
U.S. dollar	228.2/238.5
U.S. dollar	333.4/338.3
W. German mark	200.4/203.7

PRAYER TIMES

04:34	Fajr
05:57	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
19:13	Maghrib
28:36	Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold, with scattered rain. Winds will be light and variable. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy, with chances of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Amman	Min./max. temp.
Amman	16/25
Deserts	9/20
Jordan Valley	13/27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Amman 28. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Amman 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence 1st	271293, 273131
Civil Defence 2nd	707533
Civil Defence 3rd	57906
Ambulance	193, 757111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	78303
Civil Defence rescue	661113
Police headquarters	622050-3
Fire rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896307
Electric Power Co.	636381/6, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771128
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08)533026/0

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Fayer Jallouha	624267
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Dr. Adnan Zaphlani	988140
Dr. Tayseer Al-Sa'di	777636
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	775358
Al Asama pharmacy	637055
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636770
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shmeisat pharmacy	657660

TAXIS

GENERAL	
Paletine, Smeizani	664171/4
Stmeizani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Madani Hospital	687221/9
The Islamic, Abadi	664278/7
Al-Ahbi, Abdali	664131
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	771013/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafeli	775112/6
Army, Marica	891611/5
Queen of Hospital	602240/30
Amal Hospital	674135
Rachon Television	773117/9
Jordan Jordan	774117/9
Ministry of Tourism	642311
State Comptroller	666411
Price comparison	661126
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	13
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

Lecture sheds light on Madaba excavations

IRBID (J.T.) — An Italian professor, specialising in anthropology and antiquities, delivered a lecture at Yarmouk University Saturday shedding light on archaeological excavations in Ayoun Mousa and Mounir Nebo west of Madaba.

He spoke in detail on the discovery of two sixth century churches built in the site and their treasures of mosaics and frescos.

At the University of Jordan Dr. Muhanna Haddad delivered a lecture depicting the development of rural regions in the Kingdom and the culture of the local communities.



PRINCE HASSAN VISITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called at Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (Petra photo).

Body found floating in water tank

IRBID (J.T.) — Police in Irbid Governorate have found the body of an unidentified man floating in a water tank on the roof of a house owned by a citizen in Eidous near Irbid.

The body was pulled out and taken for autopsy at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper reported the stabbing of a 22-year-old man identified as M.A.M. by an unknown assailant.

It said that the stabbing was in the victim's left side of the body which did not kill him.

He was taken to King Hussein Medical Centre for treatment.

Al Ra'i also reported the injury of four people in a road accident which occurred at Rweishid area.

The paper quoted Civil Defence officials as saying that the accident involved a Saudi Arabian pick up truck and a Jordanian trailer.

The victims who include a seven-year old child were taken to Al Mafrag Government Hospital for treatment.

According to the department Director, Husamuddin Mismar, the inspection teams are being

sent out following public complaints that many of the pharmacists hand over their work to assistants after six in the evening.

"An assistant," he said, "should be conducting work under the direction of a fully qualified pharmacist. But, he added, very few violators have been identified and were warned to abide by regulations.

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Seminar discusses Jordan's political stand in Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day seminar on Jordan's political stand was held at the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies during which a number of former ministers and notable personalities spoke in detail about the Middle East question, inter-Arab relations and peace initiatives for the Middle East.

Former Minister Taher Hikmat projected the Kingdom's stand as emanating from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, which the Hashemite family had been advocating ever since the turn of the century.

"One can easily detect this attachment of Jordan's policies to this revolt in most of His Majesty King Hussein's addresses on the Palestinian question in general and the city of Jerusalem in particular," Hikmat said.

He said Jordan's interaction with the rest of the Arab Nation was represented in its participation in the 1967 and 1973 wars; and in its acceptance of the 1974

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Rabat Arab summit resolutions designated the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"Jordan has joined the other Arab states in rejecting the Camp David accord, later led the way for helping Egypt to rejoin the Arab fold, and is now spearheading efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East," Hikmat noted.

He said that Jordan is now at the head of Arab countries in supporting the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

In addition, Hikmat said, "Jordan is exerting relentless efforts to maintain solidarity among Arab countries, and leading the way to bolster inter-Arab economic cooperation."

Another speaker was Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani who reviewed the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship since 1948.

While Mr. Mahmoud Al Sharif, chairman of the board of the Al Dustour Arabic daily, spoke

in detail about the geographic, demographic and historic factors laid down in the basis of Jordan's strategy on the Arab, regional and international levels.

Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber from the University of Jordan reviewed international developments, and Jordan's endeavours for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

In his lecture, Abu Jaber also touched on the U.S. and Soviet stands vis-a-vis the different issues in the Middle East.

The last speaker was Mr. Nasouh Al Majali, director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

Majali outlined Jordan's moves towards reaching a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, and an honourable solution to the Palestinian problem.

He also referred to the six-point Jordanian document handed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, which he said, presented "a comprehensive Jordanian vision for a just and durable solution."

Amman (J.T.) — Distinguished and promising students from the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University attended a lecture held at the Amman Plaza Hotel dealing with the Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, its development and future plans.

The lecture was delivered by RJ Executive President Ali Ghandour who said that the airline is a national institution which can serve as a model for corresponding institutions in the Third World.

Ghandour briefed the students on RJ's experiments since its establishment and the vast network it now operates around the world.

He also explained the role of RJ's board of directors in laying

down strategies and future programmes, and the role of the executive branch in implementing these plans.

Ghandour spoke in general about the establishment of national airlines contracts with different nations on landing rights, setting up new stations, marketing and other topics related to air transport.

"RJ plays a leading role in marketing Jordan's tourist and archaeological attractions," Ghandour said.

Towards the end of the meeting Ghandour answered questions related to the national airline's performance and operations.

Several officials from both universities were present at the lecture.

Amman (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Welfare of the Families of the Detainees and Captives Saturday urged support for families of the Palestinian detainees and captives to enable them to meet the basic subsistence needs.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian Captives, which fell Sunday, the society said that the Solidarity Day "coincides this year with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and the accompanying brutal Israeli measures against our kinsmen in the occupied territories."

The statement voiced appreciation to, and pride in, "thousands of our brothers and sisters who are now suffering a lot in the Israeli prisons."

The statement also recalled, with pride, those who fell martyrs while defending their national

soil and clinging to their homeland, despite the Israeli brutal and inhuman practices against them.

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The statement added that the Social Welfare of the families of the detainees and captives "strengthens their popular uprising and enables them to hold on to their land despite the Israeli plans to uproot them."

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The whole, not the part

THE resumption of the "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq after a short truce underscores the elementary military proposition that in any given war on the scale that exists between the two belligerent countries in the Gulf one cannot sustain a truce on one front for too long without affecting a general truce on all other fronts. In other words, one cannot have a cold front in the midst of hot fronts. The lessons of the eight-year-old war in the Gulf bear out this observation more than anything else. There were repeated efforts in the past, for example, to freeze or suspend attacks on shipping in the Gulf as an independent objective. Such aspirations were all in vain, as the on-again off-again attacks by the two sides on international shipping became the hallmark of their war. Likewise, any attempt to halt rocket attacks by both countries against the cities of each other, in isolation from halting the other hot fronts, is doomed to fail. That is why the focus of attention of the international community, especially the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, should be directed to ending the whole war between Iran and Iraq, in conformity with Security Council Resolution 598, rather than to stop some parts of it.

It is truly futile to attempt to partition the war fronts in the Gulf into separate components, and to attempt to deal with the war on that basis. That is why after a brief interlude in the so-called "war of the cities" between Iraq and Iran, the missiles are once again falling on the cities of both countries. War is war, and all its aspects are indivisible. The sooner the overall war in the Gulf is brought to an equitable end, the sooner the suffering of innocents on both sides will end. The world made up its mind on how to stop the war in the Gulf when the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 598 in July of last year. The prescription for ending the hostilities in the Gulf are therefore available for all concerned to observe and implement. There are no more excuses for procrastination or waiving. The time is much overdue to implement that resolution. But will the permanent members of the Security Council heed their own counsel and decision? We are all still waiting for the answer and the peoples of Iraq and Iran are paying in blood and anguish for this delay in bringing the whole war to an honourable resolution.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Criminal attack

THE criminal time bomb attack which took place at the municipality premises in Amman on Saturday can by no means shake the Jordanian family's faith and national commitment. Such criminal actions can never deviate the people of Jordan and the nation as a whole from supporting the Palestinian people's rights and can never discourage this country from going ahead with policies designed to achieve peace. The criminals who perpetrated and carried out the crime are no more than enemies of our nation's values and aspirations. They are trying to express their hatred for Arab people through this evil act, and desperately aiming to dissipate the national effort to prevent Jordan from confronting the common enemy. Needless to say, that our Jordanian family which is characterised by cohesion and in the past faced numerous intrigues and aborted many plots, is now capable more than any time in the past to preserve and protect Arab values and the nation's mission; and is no doubt capable of enhancing its national unity through constructive work and sacrifice and diligence. There is no doubt that through unity and resolve the Arabs can and will regain their usurped rights and territory and establish a genuine peace. Jordan will remain a strong fortress in the face of aggressors and an oasis of security and stability.

Al Dustour: King's confidence in people, army

KING Hussein's message to the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces expresses the monarch's confidence in his people and his appreciation of the achievements of the Armed Forces which carry the standards of the Great Arab Revolt. In his message to the Armed Forces, the King warned that the forces of evil are active these days in a pincer movement, trying to destroy the Arab order. These forces are represented in Iran from the east and Israel from the west, with both sides coordinating their steps and their conspiracies against this nation. He told the Armed Forces that Jordan continues to work for convening an international peace conference to achieve an honourable peace, acceptable to the coming generations and ensuring an end to Israel's occupation of Arab land and a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem. The world, King Hussein said, has voiced its total support for Jordan's endeavours and the efforts of the Arab Nation to regain its rights and its lands. But, he said, again that Jordan cannot and will not act or negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people. Jordan, he added, will attend the conference as an independent and sovereign state, or if the Palestinians agree, in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Amid critical times

KING Hussein's message to the Jordanian Armed Forces came amidst critical circumstances this nation is going through. The King's message reminded the Jordanian family of the challenges which this country had been facing and the sacrifices offered in service of the Arab Nation by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and the Armed Forces in Palestine. The monarch particularly referred to the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories which he said came about in response to Israel's atrocities and plans for expansion. The King reminded the Armed Forces and the nation at large of the need to work in cohesion to confront the Iranian aggression in the east and the Israeli enemy in the west. The King's message expressed appreciation for the Armed Forces' endeavours and sacrifices; and made it clear to all that Jordan's efforts aim to help the Palestinians regain their rights, emphasising once again that Jordan will not negotiate for the Palestinians nor will act on behalf of the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people.

The Soviets are coming

By Waleed Sadi

MOSCOW'S call on the PLO to recognise Israel in return for the latter's recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination marks a distinct departure from passive Soviet diplomacy in the Middle East and the commencement of an active dynamic, and operational diplomacy. In an unprecedented, bold and forthright approach and style, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had seized upon the visit of Chairman Yasser Arafat to Moscow, which came on the heels of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's second stage shuttle diplomacy to the Middle East, to proclaim this new Soviet deviation from staying on the periphery of events in the region. In more than one way the Soviet decision to intervene in the peace process in the Middle East, when all clinical signs indicate that the peace process is dying an agonising death, constitute a rescue mission to the whole quest for peaceful resolution of the Palestine case and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict in the final hour.

It was no coincidence that this sudden Soviet interest in hyper-active diplomacy in our region of the world corresponded with the signing of the Afghan peace agreement that envisages early withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country on terms agreed upon by Washington and Moscow. This has led many observers to conjecture that a deal had been cooked up between the two superpowers on the twin cases of Palestine and Afghanistan. As there were obvious concessions by Washington on the Afghan accord, it seems natural that Moscow would be at least that much accommodating to Washington on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Perhaps this could also explain why Shultz hanged on to his initial optimism about his peace plan in the Middle East when everybody else in the region, Arab as well as Israel, seemed reconciled to its early suffocation and strangulation.

Over and above these considerations, Moscow's word of advice to the PLO carries considerable weight because Moscow has been viewed by most of the Arab World as a bona fide supporter of Arab causes and as a trusted champion of the PLO and all its varied factions. It is clear that Moscow can get away with any counsel that it may present to its friends in the Arab World whereas the very same advice coming from another quarter would be a suspect. With this in mind Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has decided to construct on his country's sound and unquestionable credentials in most Arab capitals to push forward ideas that normally would be viewed as heretic or sacrilegious.

If Moscow's words to the PLO are heeded by the various factions

of the PLO it would prove and substantiate the proposition that Moscow indeed has the ultimate key for the resolution of the Palestine case and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, Gorbachev's choice of timing and juncture in the region's developments prove that he is masterful in the use of his clout in the hearts and minds of many Arabs to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East simultaneously with the advancement of détente with the U.S. in order to resolve other thorny situations and issues like Afghanistan and nuclear disarmament.

Yet upon closer scrutiny of Gorbachev words to Arafat, one would be hard put to discern a real change of heart on the part of the Soviet Union vis-a-vis the issues of war and peace in the Middle East. The PLO itself has always hinted that it is willing to entertain a reciprocal exchange of recognition between it and Israel. Seen from this perspective, Moscow has not stepped on anybody's toes when it called for the very thing that the PLO has been campaigning for on more than one front or occasion. Besides, the mere call for Israel's recognition is not anathema to Soviet doctrine as it was the first government on earth which extended recognition to the infant state of Israel back in 1948. And till now the Soviet call for reciprocal exchange of recognition between the PLO and Israel has not caused any noticeable ripples in Palestinian quarters within the PLO family. And if the remarks of Chairman Arafat after his talks with the Soviet leadership that his last visit stands out as the most profitable one yet are anything to go about, then one may conclude that the smooth sailing of the Soviet-Palestinian relationship will continue unhindered and unbothered by the call on the PLO to extend recognition to Israel in the context of an overall settlement of the Palestinian case based on the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people.

What remains to be seen is the Israeli reaction to the novel Soviet heavy involvement in the peace process in the Middle East. But as long as Washington and Moscow are in league on how to proceed in the quest for peace in the Middle East, then Israel may not have a choice but to yield to super-power diplomacy. It is one thing for Tel Aviv to stand up to Washington and lecture it on what is good or bad for the U.S. and it is quite another for it to attempt to bark on Moscow as well. Viewed against this backdrop, Moscow appears determined to push the peace process forward. That explains why Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister is coming to the region.

Islam makes its mark on Dutch

By Paul Verschuur
 The Associated Press

northern Europe's economic boom.

Second generation

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The historic Dutch reputation for religious tolerance — and the culture of Islam — are facing new challenges now that 400,000 Muslim believers have made it clear they're here to stay.

After Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, Islam is now the nation's third-biggest religion, and a public debate is in full swing over how much Muslims should adapt to Dutch society — or it to them.

Parliament recently overrode several noise-sensitive municipalities with a law protecting the right of this nation's 150 or so mosques to broadcast prayer calls via public address systems.

Parliament said mosques have the same right to broadcast their traditional calls to prayer as churches do to ring their bells.

Islamic schools have been springing up around the country, where many publicly funded schools are Protestant or Catholic-oriented, despite their overwhelmingly secular curriculum.

Despite the forces of cultural integration, Muslim believers here form a closely knit group with few outside contacts, and the Dutch can never make up their minds about how much adaptation to expect, says Prof. Jan Bruggman, a leading Dutch expert on Islam.

The first generation of Muslims began arriving here from the mountains of central Morocco and eastern Turkey in the 1960s, recruited as guest workers to man

Stump when the Dutch economy slumped with the global oil crisis of the 1970s, unemployment hit hardest among the poorly trained guest workers, who by then had brought their families.

Today, it is that second generation that faces the most serious problems, Bruggman, a professor of Arabic at Leiden University, told the Associated Press.

Turkish and Moroccan fathers often are forced to depend on their Dutch-fluent teen-aged sons when dealing with Dutch officials, but still enforce strong parental authority in the home.

They clash with their daughters over issues such as women's role in public life and the propriety of European dress and dating habits, according to Bruggman.

In one recent incident that received widespread press coverage, a Muslim father sent his teen-age Moroccan girl back to Morocco for a traditional pre-arranged marriage, but was thwarted by a publicity campaign for the girl's return launched by her Dutch classmates.

"The problem with the Moroccans here is that ... (they) come from the poorest parts of Morocco. That's why they came in the first place," Bruggman said.

"The problem will be all over in a few generations," he said. "They'll undergo far-reaching assimilation."

While there have been few reported incidents of Dutch-Muslim

lim violence, ridicule of Turks and Moroccans is common, especially in lower economic strata where they are seen as taking unfair advantage of this nation's generous social welfare system.

Allah or the guildler

Islamic believers frequently take offense at what they see as a lack of religious piety in The Netherlands, where church attendance is dwindling and a large proportion of the ethnic Dutch population professes to be agnostic.

"We say 'Allah is Great,' they say: 'The guildler (currency) is great' ... not one of them talks about Jesus," says Lebanon-born Mustapha El Nouweiri, a 38-year-old interpreter who has lived here for three years.

"Ask a Dutchman why man was created and he'll say 'I don't know,'" said El Nouweiri during an interview in a local mosque.

El Nouweiri, who is married to a Dutch convert to Islam, is offended by the permissive Dutch attitude to sex.

"Everybody goes around flirting as much as he wants. That can't go on," El Nouweiri said. "Whores, pornography, and you're talking about women's rights?"

El Nouweiri, who criticised the strong Dutch support for Israel, says he's grown more fervent in his Islamic beliefs since his arrival here because he lives in an environment he sees as basically hostile.

Says Iman El Damanhoury, an ethnic Dutchwoman who con-

verted to Islam in 1985: "People think it's strange you believe in God this way (because of) the fact they're distancing themselves from God and we're moving toward him."

Most Muslims in the nation of 14.6 million are of Turkish or Moroccan origin, and have permanent residency status rather than the Dutch citizenship available to them.

There is also a substantial Muslim minority among the 180,000 Dutch nationals born in the former Dutch colony of Suriname, located north of Brazil.

Muslims make up 2.7 of the Dutch population, about the same percentage of Muslims as are in the West German and French populations.

In 1986, foreign nationals resident in The Netherlands for over five years were allowed to vote in local government elections, and Premier Ruud Lubbers' Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) stressed its own religious roots in trying to attract Muslim voters.

Bruggman opposes the vote for non-citizens, and says their isolation from Dutch society is perpetuated by the instruction in Turkish and Arabic language and culture that Turkish and Moroccan children are entitled by law to receive.

Highlighting that cultural isolation was an incident in 1986 when Social Affairs Minister Jan de Koning urged an all-male audience at a Turkish mosque to bring their wives and daughters to the polling booth.

His remarks met with an embarrassed silence.

One Friday in the West Bank

By Rayna Moss

ON Friday morning Hebron seems to be what the Israeli media calls "relatively quiet": There are no demonstrations and shops are open. In front of the glazier's shop a long line of people wait, holding decorative windows with bullet holes in them, or just empty frames. Here, shops are open only between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. when the strike comes into effect. An Israeli woman and myself are asked by our guides not to speak Hebrew in the taxi, they don't know the driver and it's better to be cautious these days. In the centre of the city we are met by a young man who directs us to the taxis to Dhalirya, a small town about 20 minutes away. Nearly the army has erected a special prison camp for the detainees of the uprising. It now holds some 300 men, most in their late teens or early twenties, but their number grows daily.

Outside the barbed wire encircling the camp some 250 people are waiting to be allowed in for the fortnightly visit. Many try to peek behind the wire fence and when prisoners, dressed in jeans and dark blue prison-issue jumpers are sighted, there is frantic waving and shouting of greetings. A small force of soldiers armed with rifles and clubs stand guard, shouting through a loudspeaker in bad Arabic: "Get back! If you don't move back we'll cancel the visits! Move quick!"

In any case, rumours abound that there will be no visits today.

This has happened before — the soldiers simply shout that visitors must disperse. A few minutes later, despite the fact that the crowd has moved to where the soldiers indicated, they announce that the visits are over. Thirty people have been allowed in, the rest are angry and disappointed. Many have travelled for hours in uncomfortable buses to see sons and husbands. The pleading of the women and even the intervention of the Red Cross representatives has no effect on the soldiers. It is not clear whose orders they are obeying.

As the first people start walking slowly towards the buses, hand-made signs appear and a group of young women begin to chant: "We want to see our children! We demand to see our children!" Hands reach out to hold the signs and many join the chanting. The soldiers panic and shout out for reinforcements. In minutes more soldiers arrive and advance towards the women with clubs raised. Some Israeli women who have come along shout at them in Hebrew: "Aren't you ashamed to beat women? Are you animals?" After a moment of genuine shock the soldiers continue to advance. They push and shove women with their clubs, but refrain from beating anyone. Two women stumble on rocks and are bruised, but no one is seriously hurt. The soldiers grab at the signs and hit out at them, shouting "See! See this!" They tear up a few placards and stomp on them, cursing the Israeli pre-

sent and blaming them for inciting the Palestinians. In minutes everyone has been pushed into the buses which take off immediately. Later they stop to allow people to find their relatives in other buses.

On the way to Ramallah, there is much interest in the Israelis. Yes, we've heard that there were demonstrators of Israelis who support us, but we haven't seen any of them. Let's take a look at you. Some say they know that 50,000 demonstrated last week in Haifa in solidarity with the uprising. Many shake their heads in agreement. In reality, only 10,000 demonstrated, but no one corrects the number. Despite the sadness and anger, hands are shaken and thanks for solidarity are given. The parting is warm.

After regrouping in Jerusalem we start out for Aqabat Jabra, a refugee camp near Jericho. In East Jerusalem the strike is in effect. Here shops are open between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the afternoon only. Large companies of border guards and soldiers patrol the city walls, alert for demonstrations after the Friday prayers. Aqabat Jabra is a poor camp. Although it lacks the extreme crowding of Jabaliya or Beach Camp in Gaza, it lies in the middle of a desert and its homes are made of a light brown clay. There are no paved roads, and although it hasn't rained for more than a day, large puddles are everywhere and passage is difficult. Women carry pails of water as there is no running water in the

camp. Neither is there a sewage system.

Activists of the Palestinian Working Women's Union visit the homes of detainees, bringing presents of hand-knitted jumpers for them. They are dark blue with a V-neck, according to prison regulations, but bear the union's symbol, a woman and a dove. In each packet there are two notes. One stating that this is a present from the union and the size, the other that the wool used is not made by Polgat, an Israeli company which fired dozens of Palestinian workers for striking during the uprising. It is being boycotted by Palestinians in Israel and supportive Israelis.

In many homes, there are two or three people in detention. Some have been kidnapped by settlers, their whereabouts unknown. There is concern and sorrow, but, it seems, no fear. We have become not only one people, but one family, a man says. One woman hesitates to accept a jumper for her husband. "I'm not a social case, you know. I'm proud of my husband and don't want your pity," she says. When she is assured that the present is a token of respect and support, she accepts, and wishes the woman luck in her campaign.

Asked about her husband's arrest, she says the soldiers, seeing their five children, told her "you must be as busy as a bee." "Let them take care of the bee doesn't sting them," the woman laugh — Middle East International, London.

OPEN FORUM

Hoping for the better

ABU JIHAD, the number two man in the PLO, was assassinated Saturday morning in Tunis. A news item as important as this deserved sixth place on Jordan TV's main news bulletin Saturday evening. A car bomb exploded the same day in Amman Municipal Building, causing some material damage. That item landed its eighth place on the same news bulletin. And a water tanker, in an incident whose relationship with the bomb was ignored by the official media, lost control while coming to the scene of the explosion and tragically killed six Jordanians. That item deserved tenth place on that bulletin.

I think I speak for many Jordanians who are infuriated with our official media's set of priorities in informing citizens about what is going on. We are Arabs, and we care about events around us that have a direct effect on us. We should expect that the news gets the proper exposure it deserves. We are living in Amman, not in Rio de Janeiro or Sydney.

We are an educated, intelligent and aware people, proud of our country, our leadership and our traditions. It seems to me that in cases such as these, we are being treated insensitively by our official media, at a time when we Jordanians should be fully informed by our own media about events that take place in our midst so that we could have the facts required to work together as a united country to face up to any dangers and to foil any plots directed at us. A well informed citizenry is vital to genuine public welfare, particularly in a turbulent region such as ours.

Marwan Musleh

Wazir — a pillar in Palestinian struggle

BY Mona Ziadé
 The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Khalil Al Wazir, the PLO's military commander assassinated in Tunis early Saturday, was one of the movement's main pillars, forging what began as a secret student cell into a guerrilla force.

Al Wazir, known throughout the Middle East by his nom-de-guerre of Abu Jihad, or "father of holy war," was a 35-year veteran of the war against Israel.

He was born in Ramle, in Palestine, on Oct. 10, 1953. His father owned a bakery.

At age 13, he and his family were forced to move to Gaza after Israel was created. At high school in Gaza a few years later, he became leader of the students' union.

He began recruiting young Palestinians into the union, forming a clandestine cell, challenging Egypt's rule in Gaza.

In 1954, the Egyptians arrested him and held him for several weeks before freeing him.

The following year, Al Wazir led his first major operation, blowing up water tanks near Beit Hanoun.

In the 1956 Middle East war, Al Wazir fled to Egypt, where he enrolled at the University of Alexandria's law school.

It was in Egypt that he met two other students, Yasser Arafat and Salah Khalaf. They founded Fateh, an underground group dedicated to restoring Palestine.

Fateh, a reverse Arabic acronym for the Palestine National Liberation Movement, was to become the core of the Palestine liberation movement.

Within a year, Arafat, having graduated with a degree in civil engineering, left for Kuwait to work at the ministry of public works. Al Wazir dropped out of university and went to Saudi Arabia seeking work.

In 1962, he married his cousin Intisar.

He, Khalaf and Arafat reunited in Kuwait, where they began recruiting for their liberation movement.

In 1963, Al Wazir moved to Algiers, where he founded Asifa, Arabic for storm, persuading the Algerians to help train about 100 young Palestinian fighters.

Moved from Algiers, he and Arafat moved on to China where they sought help in laying the foundations for Fateh.

Arafat returned to Kuwait, but Al Wazir stayed on in Asia for several months, training in North Korea, China and North Vietnam.

He returned later that year to establish his military headquarters in Damascus, Syria.

On Jan. 1, 1965, he launched a cross-border raid from the Syrian Golan Heights into Israel, and



Khalil Wazir

claimed the attack for Fateh. To this day, Jan. 1 is Revolution Day for the 5 million people of the Palestinian diaspora.

In May 1966, he and several Fateh members were arrested in Syria. He was released 45 days later.

While Arafat shuttled among Arab capitals seeking political recognition and financial backing for the Fateh's fedayeen, freedom-fighters, Al Wazir directed more military operations across the Lebanese and Syrian borders, while recruiting and training of young Arab fighters.

In 1967, Al Wazir led Asifa fighters into Israel's northern Galilee.

Over the next nine years, Al Wazir concentrated on raids against Israel, forming infiltration units and establishing underground cells in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, and Abu Jihad and the PLO evacuated. He set up his base in Damascus again.

But Syrian-PLO relations collapsed in 1983. After a Syrian-sponsored mutiny in the PLO, Al Wazir left Syria and moved to Tripoli, North Lebanon.

But in December 1983, the mainstream PLO was driven out of Tripoli after bloody fighting with Syrian-backed rebels.

Al Wazir continued to enjoy the respect of PLO dissidents and the Syrian government. He made several futile attempts to reconcile Arafat with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, whose personal feuds had undermined the Syrian-PLO alliance.

In the PLO, Al Wazir was known as "the revolution's honest man."

The soft-spoken Al Wazir, who unlike Arafat rarely wore a uniform, listened more than he spoke.

He is survived by his wife, also known as Uman Jihad, "mother of the holy war," three boys — Jihad, 24; Bassem, 21; and Nidal, 2 — and two daughters, Imani, 18, and Hanan 14.

Wazir's parents say son wanted to die a martyr

DAMASCUS (R) — The parents of Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir, shot dead in Tunis Saturday, said their son had told them he wanted to die a martyr.

"Khalil used to say to me: 'One day you will hear that I am killed. What will you do if I am martyred?'" his weeping 78-year-old mother told Reuters.

Fawziyah Al Wazir said her husband Ibrahim heard on the radio that their son had been killed by gunmen who invaded his Tunis home.

"I was in bed when he started saying 'Khalil is gone... Khalil is gone... they killed my son,'" she said.

Ibrahim Al Wazir, in his late 80s, accused the Israelis of killing his son.

"My God help us to bear this deep wound. The nation's hero is dead," he said with tears in his eyes. "Who killed my son? The Israelis are those who killed my son. Only God knows our feeling."

"My son's life was a struggle. He lived a hard life and had to move from one place to another... He was longing for the time when we all return to our home in Palestine."

Fawziyah said she had not seen Khalil for six years. "He moved from one place to another to carry out his duties and he has not time to see us," she said.

"We were living in Gaza but Khalil wanted us to come to live with him in Lebanon. After we came to Lebanon, the war started and he moved us to this flat."

Tape-recorded passages from the Koran were played as scores of Palestinians gathered at the Wazir family apartment to offer

French hostages miss chances of freedom

ANATIA, occupied West Bank (AP) — A mosque under construction in this West Bank village has become the focus of some of the religious and nationalist passions that are rending the region.

Last week, hundreds of villagers surrounded the construction site to prevent troops from carrying out a demolition order. The Israeli occupation authorities had ordered it torn down because they say it is being built without a permit.

But the villagers said the Israelis withheld the permit to punish them for taking part in the 18-week anti-Israeli uprising and for refusing to accept an Israeli-appointed leadership.

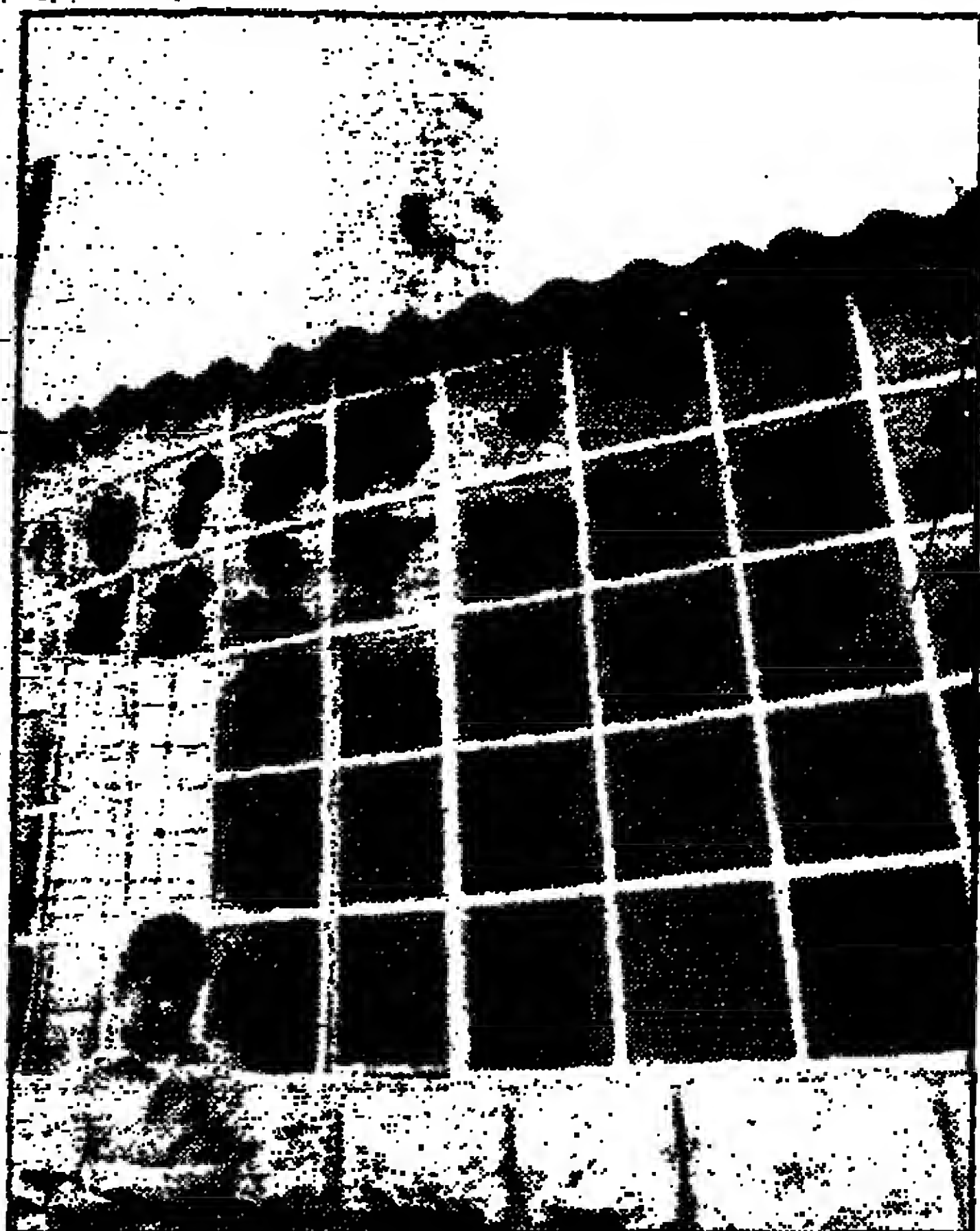
Israeli officials contend they want to halt construction because the mosque was built over archaeological ruins.

The occupation authorities later approved a four-day reprieve, but the dispute triggered strong anti-Israeli sentiment among villagers.

"If the bulldozers arrive, they will have to bury us inside the mosque," said Khatib, 30, said Thursday as he and hundreds of other villagers surrounded the mosque, a half-completed 400-square-metre limestone complex.

Minutes later, an army jeep pulled up the hill, and shouts of "the soldiers are coming" swept through the crowd. Village elders restrained angry youths pushing towards the jeep, telling them not to provoke the soldiers.

A lieutenant-colonel



ARMY AGAINST MOSQUES: An Arab boy stands by the broken windows of a mosque in the occupied West Bank village of Beit Umar after the building came under attack by Israeli soldiers who fired cannonshots of marble at it.

climbed out of the jeep and toured the mosque with village elders. The officer told residents that they had won a

reprieve until Monday when the occupation authorities were to meet with Anata residents.

Oliver Rafovitch, an Israeli spokesman, said a construction permit was denied because the mosque was being built on ruins from the Byzantine, Roman, Hellenistic and Iron Age periods.

One of the mosque's outer walls is one metre away from the roofless ruins of a Byzantine church.

But villagers were sceptical about the reasons given by the Israelis.

"The Israelis don't want more mosques. They are afraid it will help the Islamic movement. And because of the uprising, they want to take revenge against us," said Khatib.

Villagers also said the occupation authorities were trying to punish them for refusing to agree to Israel's demand to appoint village leaders.

"Accepting a village council would be an act of collaboration," said resident Ahmad Abu Hanayeh, 22.

Construction of the mosque began about two months ago to provide more space for worshippers who in the past were forced to pray in the streets surrounding the old mosque built in 1927.

Residents donated material and labour, with about 200 people working at the site in their spare time. "This is our mosque and I worked hard," said 15-year-old Musa Abed Saleh, who helped carry bricks and mix cement.

"It is a gift to God," added Khatib. "This land should be exempt from regulations."

Kuwaitis unite to condemn hijacking

KUWAIT (R) — In a show of national unity Saturday, hundreds of Kuwaiti Shi'ite Muslims crowded into a memorial service for two Sunni Muslims killed by hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner.

"Kuwait is targeted," blind author Abdul Razak Al Baseer told the service in the Da'ira Shi'ite prayer hall, attended by Minister of State for Services Issa Mohammad Al Mazidi.

"They (the hijackers) wanted to break our national unity but we were alert. Be aware, gentlemen," Baseer told worshippers.

The hijackers, believed to be pro-Iranian Shi'ites, shot dead the two Kuwaiti passengers at Larnaca, Cyprus, to press their demand that the Boeing 747 be refuelled.

Most if not all of the estimated 31 hostages still aboard the plane are believed to belong to Kuwait's majority Sunni sect, including three members of the ruling Al Sabah family.

In return for fuel at Larnaca, the hijackers freed 12 hostages. All four Kuwaitis among them were Shi'ites.

Kuwait accused mostly Shi'ite Iran of planning the hijacking and attempting to inflame factional tensions in Kuwait, which backs Iraq in the Gulf war.

As a tape of Koranic readings played, mourners read silently from the holy book. Speakers called for national unity and praised the government for refusing to give in to the gunmen.

The hijackers have demanded that Kuwait release 17 Arab militants imprisoned for bomb attacks in December 1983.

The service was broadcast on Kuwait Television along with interviews with several citizens who stressed national unity.

Several mourners, who included three of the released Kuwaiti hostages, said the hijacking drew the nation closer together.

"The hijackers wanted to create sectarianism in Kuwait," said

Ali Moussa, an auditor, adding that the hijackers were not true Shi'ites.

"The two murdered Kuwaitis are sons of all of Kuwait. They sacrificed their lives for Kuwait," said Fadel Abu Abbas, who helped organise the service.

The family of one of the released Kuwaitis, Fadil Leiri, said Sunday it had not heard from him since he was freed in Larnaca.

The Foreign Ministry confirmed to Reuters that Leiri was in Kuwait, but referred other questions to the Interior Ministry.

The husband of Leiri's wife's sister is wanted in Kuwait for other sabotage. But Leiri's wife, Maleeha, said her husband, a computer scientist for the local IBM agent, was not involved in any political activity.

Leiri was one of about 10 employees of the local IBM agency returning from a seminar in Bangkok when Kuwait Airways flight 422 was hijacked April 5.

Kuwait has repeatedly rejected the demand by the hijackers that it free 17 Arab militants con-

victed of bomb attacks on embassies and other targets in 1983.

About 35 hostages, including the three members of the Kuwaiti royal family, remain on the plane. There are believed to be about eight hijackers, one or two of whom may have boarded in Iran.

Receptions cancelled

The emir and crown prince of Kuwait have cancelled traditional receptions marking Ramadan out of respect for the hijack victims, newspapers reported Sunday.

The newspapers quoted the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) as saying that the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, called off the normal Ramadan receptions "out of sympathy for the families of the martyrs and those hijacked on the Kuwaiti airliner, and in response to the feelings of citizens and residents alike."

The crown prince, Sheikh Sabir Al Abdullah Al Sabah, also cancelled the traditional receptions to celebrate the start of Ramadan, the agency said.

Bugged phone tapes reveal British warning to Waite

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain warned Church of England envoy Terry Waite shortly before he vanished in Lebanon in January 1987 that his life might be in danger because of the arrest of a suspected Lebanese hijacker, the Foreign Office confirmed Saturday.

The warning was disclosed in a tape of a bugged telephone conversation between Waite and the British consul in Beirut, Frank Gallagher, according to London's Sunday Express.

The newspaper said it had obtained a five-hour series of taped conversations Waite had on a bugged hotel telephone in the Lebanese capital.

Waite, special envoy to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, vanished in Beirut Jan. 20, 1987, while trying to win freedom for two Americans held hostage by Islamic

Jihad, a pro-Iranian faction. No group has ever claimed responsibility for his disappearance.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that Gallagher had phoned Waite to relay the British government's concern over the arrest in West Germany of Muhammad Hamadi in connection with the hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut in June 1985.

A U.S. navy diver was killed and 39 Americans were held 17 days during the hijacking.

Hamadi was arrested at Frankfurt airport Jan. 13 — a week before Waite disappeared — on explosive charges.

Britain believed that his arrest had increased the risk to Waite, as a reprisal target, while he was in Beirut, said the Foreign Office spokesman, speaking anonymously.

The Sunday Express said that Gallagher, aware that Waite's telephone might be bugged, introduced himself in Latin, a language the church envoy understood, before relaying his government's warning in English.

According to the Sunday Ex-

press, Gallagher told Waite that he had received a message from the Foreign Office that Hamadi's arrest "could have a bearing on the security of Western interests in Lebanon. Mr. Waite will no doubt have this in mind in attending to his own security arrangements."

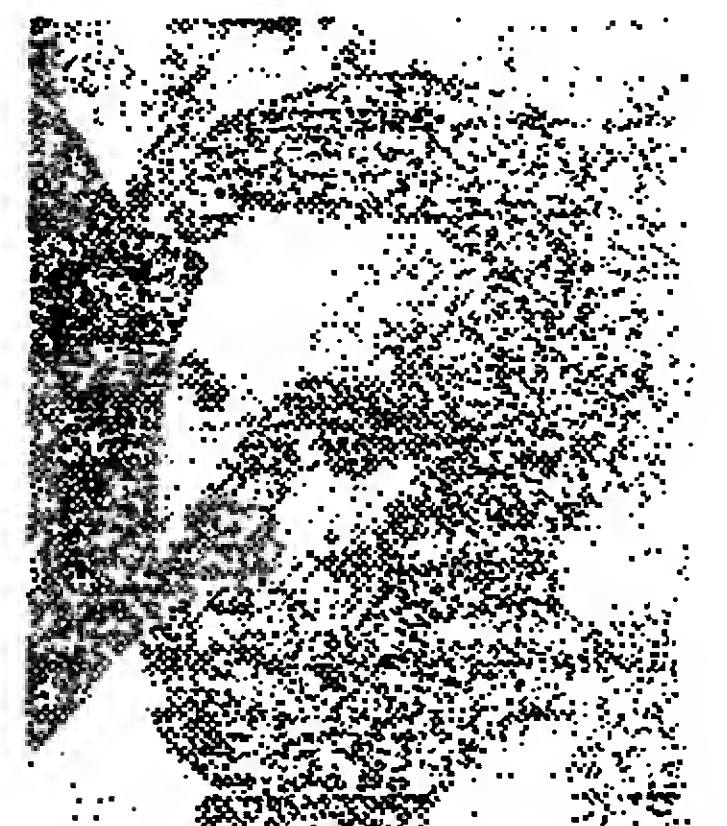
Waite replied: "O.K., thank you very much."

The newspaper said nothing in the tapes supported claims by pro-Iranian extremists that Waite was working for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

A transcript of the conversation showed Waite had planned to attend an undercover meeting alone, without his Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia guards.

"I want your man to drop me somewhere and then just leave," Waite told a man the newspaper said was apparently a PSP leader.

The Sunday Express said the tapes were smuggled out of Beirut from two Lebanese. It did not indicate who bugged Waite's hotel telephone before he vanished.



Terry Waite

Waite's brother David said in a radio interview after hearing an excerpt from the tapes: "There is no doubt that is my brother's voice."

Palestinians mourn Abu Jihad

(Continued from page 1)

In Ramallah, streets were filled with slogans that read: "Death to Peres, Rabin and Shamir, killers of commander Abu Jihad" and "escalating the uprising is the best answer to the murder of Abu Jihad."

Most of about 100,000 Palestinians who work in Israel boycotted their jobs and hundreds held special prayers at mosques as Muslims also marked the start of Ramadan.

In the town of Obdeiyeh, near Bethlehem, about 4,000 Palestinians held a march before players, chanting anti-Israeli slogans, such as "with the sword and blood we will redeem the martyr."

Witnesses quoted by the AP said at least three protesters suffered injuries from beatings by soldiers who used force to disperse the march.

In Jerusalem, Israeli police detained an Arab-American advocate of non-violent resistance to occupation, Mubarak Awad, for 30 minutes at the gates of the Al Aqsa Mosque, Awad said.

Awad, a Christian, was accompanying two Greek Orthodox priests who came to express their sympathy to Palestinian mourners attending a memorial service held at the mosque for Wazir.

The priests were also turned away, Awad said. But later, several Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox priests were seen near the mosque.

Publications threatened

The Palestinian weekly magazine Al Awad, published in Arabic and English, was notified by the Israeli occupation authorities Sunday that it may be closed down, its owner Ibrahim Kara'een said.

The Palestine Press Service, which served as a main source of information for foreign journalists during the uprising, and is also owned by Kara'een, was recently closed for six months.

Also Sunday, the Al Fajr newspaper which supports Fatah, failed to publish its daily edition after Israel's military censor blue-penciled most of its articles.

Ibrahim Dakkak, head of an Arab think-tank, condemned Wazir's killing for which he blamed Israel.

"The assassination is a crime from both human and political points of view. It is a sabotage planned to destroy the possibilities for peace in the region."

"Israel is the only party that

could have carried out such an act," said Hanna Sihoria, editor of Al Fajr.

Fazl Abu Rahmeh, Wazir's cousin and the head of the Gaza Lawyers' Association, was arrested at about 1 a.m. Saturday morning, just before Wazir was shot dead in Tunis, his daughter told Reuters.

She said Abu Rahmeh was later released. Israel Radio quoted Abu Rahmeh as saying the killing was a tragedy for the Palestinian people.

Palestinians in the occupied areas said Wazir's assassination would have no effect on the uprising.

Sunday's general strike was in response to a new leaflet circulated in Arab Jerusalem by the underground Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip calling for a three-day protest strike, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli military commentators assumed in analyses published Sunday that Israel struck down Wazir.

Ze'ev Schiff, commentator for the Israeli daily Haaretz, said: "The killing of Abu Jihad... is a terrible blow to the morale of the PLO and residents of the occupied territories, but Israel must recognise its execution is bound to encourage radical elements in the behaviour of the organisation."

"If so, it is a mistake to think that this will bring an end to the uprising," he said.

The Japanese government condemned Israel's recent expulsion of eight Palestinians to Lebanon in violation of the Geneva convention regarding the protection of civilians in time for war.

In a press statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo Saturday, the Japanese government said it regretted that no improvement had been made to the situation in the occupied territories, despite Japanese appeals made to the Israeli government, and the rest of the international community.

Japan considers the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip serious and condemns the recent expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland to Lebanon and the planned expulsion of 12 other Palestinians, the statement said.

The Palestinian uprising has also begun taking a toll on Israel's mainstay tourist industry, Israel Radio reported.

PLO weighs response to killing

(Continued from page 1)

standing guard at strategic points outside.

Neighbours quoted a member of Abu Jihad's household staff as saying she had seen a woman among the attackers filming the raid with a video camera.

Witnesses at the scene of the murder told Reuters telephone technicians found a device they said had been used by the killers to cut all telephone lines in the district.

A special inquiry team has been set up by President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali.

Abu Jihad praised, before his death, Palestinian commando operations against military targets in Israel and the occupied territories.

In what the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba said was his last interview, Abu Jihad said in remarks published Sunday recent commando operations in Israel had boosted the morale of Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories.

"Selected guerrilla operations against Israeli military targets have the effect of supporting the morale of our people in the occupied nation," he was quoted as saying.

"They (operations) are directed against the instruments of repression who smash bodies and bones and desecrate every region with their limitless brutality," he added.

The U.S. television network NBC said Saturday Abu Jihad was killed by Israelis in a government-approved commando operation.

The network said the Israeli cabinet approved the murder after three employees of the Dimona nuclear reactor were killed on a bus in the Negev desert last month during an attack claimed by Fatah, which was founded by Arafat, Abu Jihad and Khalaf.

NBC said the Tunis assassination was approved by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In a report from its Tel Aviv correspondent, NBC said it had learned Wazir was killed in a combined operation by Israel's Mossad secret service, naval commandos and members of an army unit that freed airline hostages from Entebbe, Uganda, in 1976.

The report, which did not specify NBC's sources, said the Mossad had asked at least three times for permission to kill Abu Jihad but each time the Israeli government network stuck to what the television network called a tacit agreement not to kill PLO leaders.

That changed three weeks ago with the bus hijack in Israel, NBC said.

"Sources say top Israeli leaders Shamir, Rabin, Peres gave the go-ahead to kill Abu Jihad," NBC said.

It said top Israeli army leaders Dan Shomron and Ehud Barak helped plan the operation, which was similar to the 1973 operation in which Israel killed three PLO leaders in Beirut.

It said a woman was involved in each operation, except that in the 1973 attack, the "woman" was actually Barak in disguise.

The Soviet news agency TASS accused Israel of killing Abu Jihad and said the murder would escalate the Middle East conflict.

"The opinion of those who watch the development of Middle East events is that the assassination... was Israeli-made," a commentary said.

"The Zionist state, unable to control the flames of popular uprising of Palestinians in the occupied territories, has chosen a dangerous way of escalating the conflict."

Hundreds of grieving Palestinians gathered outside the Damascus residence of Abu Jihad's 80-year-old father, Ibrahim Al Wazir, to offer sympathy.

The various PLO factions issued similarly worded statements vowing revenge.

"We will avenge the blood of our martyr," said statements by Saiga, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, and the Popular Struggle Front, the three groups at odds with Arafat's mainstream leadership.

In Beirut, the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal expressed great sorrow at Abu Jihad's death.

"We stretch our hands to whoever will carry a decisive retaliation against the killers and criminals," an FRC statement said.

In Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps, black flags flew as thousands of distressed residents mourned Wazir.

"We will not only launch spectacular attacks against (Israeli) military targets, but will go directly for their leaders," a Palestinian fighter in Ain Al Hilweh camp said.

The Fatah-uprising, a dissident faction that broke away from Fatah, in 1983, said in its statement. The crime aims at liquidating the uprising and boosting the morale of the Zionist army.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front and the Palestine Liberation Front all praised Abu Jihad as a national hero and vowed to strike at Israel.

Sudan army denies rebel missile attack

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese armed forces Sunday denied a report that anti-government rebels fired missiles at Juba airport in southern Sudan, saying the launching was an accident.

"The general command would like to categorically deny any link between this incident and the rebel movement... and assert that the town is under no danger," an armed forces spokesman quoted by the official Sudan News Agency said.

Al Gareda daily, in a report from Juba 1,200 kilometres south of Khartoum, said Saturday two missiles damaged a Soviet-made MiG-17 jet and a water tank at the airport Thursday without causing casualties.

The spokesman said several projectiles fired by mistake from an aircraft while it was undergoing routine maintenance hit a non-operational aircraft on the airfield and a water tank.

The independent Al Aya and the English-language Sudan Times reported Sunday that Juba airport was closed to traffic as a result of the Thursday incident.

The spokesman warned local media that such unofficial reports harmed national interests.

Demjanjuk verdict expected today

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk, who has spent years fighting charges he was Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible," will learn the verdict Monday in his 14-month war crimes trial.

Three Israeli judges will issue a 450-page judgment based on prosecution testimony, documents experts and testimony from Demjanjuk himself. The proceedings filled 15,000 pages.

Adolf Eichmann was convicted and hanged in 1962 in the only other Nazi war crimes trial in Israel. Unlike Eichmann, Demjanjuk has insisted he is an innocent victim of mistaken identity.

The retired autoworker from Cleveland, Ohio, is charged with operating gas chambers that killed 850,000 people at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1942 and 1943.

Five death camp survivors testified that they recognised Demjanjuk as the brutal "Ivan." But many observers contend that the case against the defendant has not been proven conclusively.

However, few Israelis doubt the judges will hand down a



John Demjanjuk

verdict of guilty. For them, the only question is whether the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 68, will be spared the death penalty. If Demjanjuk is found guilty, he will be sentenced at a later, separate hearing.

If he wins an acquittal Monday, he will not walk away from the courtroom in a converted movie theatre.

Stripped of his U.S. citizenship before extradition to Israel in February 1980, Demjanjuk is stateless and could be deported to the Soviet Union, which provided a Nazi identity card and other evidence against him.

"This is a man without a nation, he has no papers. When the trial ends, our problems don't end. They're only beginning," Demjanjuk's son-in-law Ed Nasic said in an interview.

Much of the trial focused on a lengthy, often repetitive debate over the authenticity of a key piece of prosecution evidence, Demjanjuk's alleged Nazi identity card.

Some 500 exhibits, among them even a paperclip, were submitted to bolster the testimony of six prosecution experts who said it was authentic and an equal number of defence witnesses who maintained it was forged.

Demjanjuk contends the document was fabricated by the Soviet Union to punish him for serving in an anti-communist unit formed by the Nazis at the end of World War II.

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Hijackers air hostage's appeal

(Continued from page 1)

of the terminal building facing the plane. It was not clear why they had been dispatched.

One official, who refused to be identified by name, said the lounge was urgently needed for Arab ambassadors expected to come to the airport for a possible expansion of the continuing negotiations. The official declined to provide any details.

The gunmen have threatened to fly the jet out of Algeria "to settle our score with Kuwait somewhere else." Early Sunday, they said they would extend their "departure time warning" to pursue negotiations. There has been no indication of where they might go.

The estimated eight hijackers asked for 25,000 litres of fuel to maintain conditions inside the plane, but did not set a deadline or directly repeat their previous threats to kill the hostages and blow up the plane. The hijackers also asked for and received newspapers.

On Saturday, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's ruler, telephoned President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria to ask that the plane not be allowed to leave.

In a brief statement in Arabic to the control tower, the hijackers said: "At the request of our brothers the Algerians we announce that we have agreed to extend the departure time warning to give an opportunity for the efforts by the Algerians."

Iraqis retake parts of Fao

(Continued from page 1)

a second prong of the offensive overwhelmed Iranian forces on the Fao side of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the peninsula's northern boundary.

A Western military analyst in Baghdad said the Iraqis had retaken a salt quarry and this paved the way to capture the town of Fao eight kilometres away.

It was the first time Iraq had taken the initiative in the ground war since mid-1986 when it overran the virtually abandoned Iranian town of Mehran just inside

the Iranian border.

The Iraqis have fought a largely defensive war since withdrawing from Iranian territory in 1982, saying they are willing to negotiate for peace.

Soldiers of the Iraqi Seventh Army Corps and the elite Presidential Guards launched the "blessed Ramadan" offensive in Fao, the Iraqi communique said.

The use of the Presidential Guards suggested a major offensive, since they are rarely deployed in routine combat.

Analysts expect U.S. stocks to slide

NEW YORK (R) — Bad economic news that battered U.S. stocks last week is likely to prompt remedial measures that could push share prices down further when markets open Monday, analysts and economists warn.

"Rising interest rates are the biggest threat," said Prudential analyst Larry Wachtel.

Some also said they expected Japanese investors, once a big part of the U.S. markets, to stay away from U.S. stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average sank a total of 78 points last week to 2,013. It dropped 101 points Thursday after the U.S. trade deficit ballooned and fell further Friday after a surprise jump in consumer prices.

Bargain buyers produced an eight-point rise by Friday's close, however.

Watch for interest rates

Gruntal analyst Alan Ackerman said: "We have to watch out for higher interest rates now. The Federal Reserve may have no choice other than tightening credit policy to try to stop the dollar's free fall and fight inflation."

He added: "That means that interest rates will rise, hurting the consumer and business," forcing both to pay more to borrow and spend.

The effect would be to slow economic expansion and make stocks less attractive, Ackerman said.

It would also turn investors to the U.S. note and bond market for higher yields, taking their money out of stocks.

Six months after the Oct. 19 "Black Monday," when the Dow plunged 508 points and triggered shocks in markets worldwide, some analysts say a recession could be forced by a falling dollar, swelling inflationary pressure

and higher interest rates.

Nervous Wall Street investors were jolted Thursday by news that February's trade deficit was \$13.83 billion compared to \$12.44 billion in January.

Friday's news of a 0.6 per cent jump in producer prices when a 0.2 per cent had been expected led money market traders to suggest the Federal Reserve could increase its discount rate to member banks.

Although an increase is partly symbolic, it can spread quickly to many types of rates, including mortgages, broker loans and bond market yields, they said.

A rise in the prime rate, now 8.5 per cent, is likely this week, some analysts and Wall Street observers said.

The Investor's Almanac, published by Barron's magazine, said: "Banks are expected to follow a rise in the U.S. long bond yield almost to nine per cent by

raising their prime lending rate this week."

Brokers said a rise would quickly hit both the credit and stock markets. Sanford C. Bernstein's Jerome Hinkle saw "little stock market relief in the basic economic news or on the charts some of our investors follow."

"For the financial markets, the trade gap is a near disaster," said Boston Co. economist and stock analyst Allen Sinai.

Dollar may go down

He said it was likely to propel the dollar down further, prompting more of last week's coordinated central bank buying of dollars to sop up some of the selling.

Sinai also expected the equity markets to drop further. "It is hard to tell how far down the trade report could propel the stock market."

James Kochan, chief fixed income strategist for Merrill Lynch, said: "There is little doubt the bond markets will continue to be concerned with international events."

A Daiwa Securities' official said the dollar may have to fall to 110 yen before stabilising.

However, he added: "Daiwa believes the U.S. stock market is closer to its bottom than its top."

Edward Collins, Daiwa Executive vice-president in charge of U.S. equities, said: "If the U.S. stock market holds its ground Monday and Tuesday, it could make a 100- to 150-point gain."

Tokyo stocks set to rise

The Japanese bull market may have a lot further to go, he said. "After the Nikkei index crossed over 27,000 recently, the goal now is 30,000."

Last week, Japanese investors played a small part in the U.S. selling, he said, and this week it should be the same.

"The unstable dollar is leading Japanese investors to buy U.S. bonds and Japanese stocks now. Those who dabble in U.S. stocks are in-and-out traders," Collins said.

He said Japanese insurers did not dump the dollar when advantageous accounting changes recently went into effect with the end of the fiscal year because many "were in securities with various maturity dates, easing the effect of any dollar dumping."

Low prices boost chocolate demand

LONDON (AP) — Demand for chocolate, in particular the traditional solid bar, is booming. The reason, industry sources say, is stable prices because of the depressed market for cocoa.

Cocoa beans, which account for about 10 per cent of the finished price of a chocolate bar, are now cheaper than at any time since early 1982. Prices have dropped 30 per cent in the last year alone.

At today's price of just about £890 (\$1,647) per tonne, cocoa in real terms — after allowing for inflation — is at its lowest since

the early 1960s.

Analysts say confectionery manufacturers and consumers both are benefiting from the slump, which is caused by four years of oversupply.

Manufacturers have either cut or kept chocolate prices stable over the past year while boosting profits, and promotional spending, say the London-based cocoa merchants Gill and Duffus.

In the 1970s, chocolate sales were hurt by rises in prices to levels about four times current prices, and in the 1980s, health foods cut into sales.

But Gill forecasts that world demand for cocoa in the current 1987-88 season ending in September, will rise 3.6 per cent to the highest level ever of 1.963 million tonnes.

This would still be an estimated 122,000 tonnes below world production, which is expected to reach a record two million tonnes.

Stable prices have helped solid chocolate bars to stage a comeback at the expense of sugar candy and filled bars, which use less cocoa.

Cadbury reports rapid growth

Cadbury, Britain's biggest confectionery manufacturer, reported rapid growth in the sector last year.

In a recent study, Cadbury found that Britons, who have the sweetest tooth in Europe, in 1987

on average spent a record 71.9 pence (\$1.33) a week on chocolate confectionery and ate 154 grammes (5.4 ounces) per person weekly.

Only the Swiss eat more chocolate, but they consume considerably less sugar confectionery than the British.

Gills reports that chocolate consumption is growing throughout Europe, and in regions such as the Soviet Union, Asia and South America.

The United States — the world's biggest importer of beans — used a record 292,938 tonnes last year, a rise of 9.2 per cent on 1986, according to Gill.

Industry sources said candy bars make up about half of annual U.S. production of nearly 2.5 billion pounds of chocolate.

Chocolate as we know it today dates from a Dutch discovery in the last century of a method of pressing most of the fat, or cocoa butter, out of roasted cocoa beans.

The hard cake produced is ground into powder and used as a drink, while the butter is mixed with milk, sugar and other ingredients to make chocolate.

The Aztecs are the first recorded producers and eaters of cocoa, which they also used as a currency. They gave their recipes for cocoa drink to 16th century Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes, who passed the secrets to Europe.

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Ministry notifies Jordanian doctors of openings in Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health announced that the door is still open for Jordanian physicians wishing to work in Libya.

A report in Al Rai Arabic newspaper quoted health officials as saying that 41 doctors have already left for Libya to take up jobs there and 35 others will leave in the coming three weeks.

A total of 80 other doctors are preparing to go to Libya but 27 of those who originally applied changed their minds and declined to go.

Earlier, it was announced that Libyan government officials had concluded contracts for the employment of 160 Jordanian doctors and specialists.

Tabbaa lowers meat prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Prices of imported meat have been slightly reduced, and olive oil imported from Tunisia will be available at Jordanian stores from now on, according to a statement by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbaa.

The statement said that from now on containers of 4,375 kilograms of Tunisian oil will be sold to the consumers at the rate of JD 4,250 each.

One kilogramme of imported mutton will cost the consumer JD 1,240; a kilogramme of imported beef JD 1,380 and a kilogramme of fillet will cost JD 1,650, according to the new rates.

The new prices reflect a drop by 20 fils on each kilogramme of imported meat of all types, according to the statement.

Tabbaa was quoted by the Arabic daily newspaper Al Rai Saturday that as of Sunday,

there will be no shortage of meat supplies in the country because the ministry will distribute imported fresh meat to butchers on a daily basis.

The minister said that agreement has been reached with importers to double the amount of imported meat during the month of Ramadan to meet the expected increase in meat consumption during this month.

Tabbaa said that rice, sugar, flour and milk and other basic commodities are available in Jordan in sufficient quantities and that ministry officials will be touring stores to ensure that ministry regulations concerning these commodities and their prices are not violated.

Referring to prices of vegetables and fruit, which witnessed a noticeable increase, the minister said these prices will gradually drop within this week.

Jordan-Kuwait agricultural firm to distribute 5% dividend

AMMAN — The Jordan Kuwait Company for Agricultural Products has decided to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of five per cent in the light of the company's 1987 operations.

A report in Al Rai Arabic newspaper said that the company's general assembly held a meeting on April 14, supervised

by an official from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, and adopted the board's recommendation.

The company was established in Jordan in 1985 with a JD 4 million capital which shared by Jordanian and Kuwaiti shareholders.

Jordan follows up trade with Sanaa

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's economic attaché at the Jordanian embassy in Sanaa met with officials at the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the implementation of trade contracts with Jordan.

Attache Jamal Faouri said that Jordanian exporters can contact the North Yemeni import com-

mittee directly for any deals, according to a message received by the Amman Chamber of Commerce here.

Jordanian merchants had earlier concluded contracts with North Yemeni importers on specified quantities of goods to be exported to North Yemen.

Majority of Austrians support aid to developing countries

VIENNA (OPECNA) — Over 50 per cent of Austrians consider

that their own fate is linked with that of developing countries, according to the results of a survey released here.

It also shows that more than three-quarters of the Austrian population support economic aid to developing countries while 22 per cent are against the idea.

Conducted by the Fessel and GFK Institute for the Austrian foreign ministry, the survey shows that in other European countries, fewer people had rejected the idea of development aid.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 17, 1988

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	96216	JD 139696	147
Top three companies:			
Jordan Dairy	29539	JD 29770	14
Arab Bank	220	JD 25080	4
Jordan Cement Factories	11369	JD 11868	12
Parallel market:	11637	JD 5223	
Development bonds:	3700	JD 48700	
Treasury bills & bonds:			

Finance and Commodities Report

The following is the first of a regular column that will appear twice a month in the Jordan Times, examining the most important movements in currency, commodities and other markets in Jordan and abroad.
The writer is chief dealer at Salfiti Securities, the Amman-based portfolio management firm with offices in Geneva and London.

By Fouad Batschon

THE DOLLAR dropped on surprisingly large February U.S. trade gap. With an expectation of \$11 billion gap the figure was released Thursday to be \$13.83 billion which made the dollar fall three full points against the British pound.

The dollar was steady but mixed after dealers in N.Y., London and Frankfurt reported central banks in their countries bought dollars for yen and marks, as part of a concentrated policy adopted by the G7 meeting and announced on Wednesday in Washington.

Locally, the dollar tested the high of 0.345 fils on the Jordanian dinar, and finished the week with a drop of five full fils, to close at 0.340 fils.

Indications from the charts appear to be bullish on the dollar against all major currencies and the Jordanian dinar.

Commodities

The most exciting commodity in my opinion is sugar. Charts indicate that sugar is the best buy at existing levels, which are \$8.55 per bushel in N.Y. and \$195 per tonne in London.

Technically, sugar should move to test again the \$9.25 bushel in N.Y. and \$210 per tonne in London.

Also, fundamental reasons are pushing up the price of sugar this month, as huge spot quantities of sugar were bought and are being still bought by Middle Eastern countries.

Following are some gold prices and Arab currency rates in Amman within the last trading week:

Gold (per gramme, 21 carats) — JD 4.25

Gold (per gramme, 18 carats) — JD 3.85

L.L./JD 1058 - 1128

S.L./JD 134 - 150

Iraqi dinar/JD 0.165 - 0.175

Egyptian pound/JD 0.135 / 0.145

Markets await oil output cuts

LONDON (R) — Moves by OPEC to cooperate with other producers to prop oil prices have sent them higher without the group having to sacrifice any output, but the market expects a production cut when the two sides meet late in April.

Joint output cuts of between 600,000 to one million barrels per day by OPEC and the other sellers who have been invited to talks at its Vienna headquarters on April 26 are vital to erase surpluses and stop prices falling, market analysts say.

The price of British North Sea Brent crude oil, a barometer of world trends, jumped 13 per cent to \$17 a barrel on news a week ago that the meeting was being arranged to be followed by a full OPEC conference.

"A production cut is built into the higher price. Anything in excess of 600,000 is enough," said Fergus Macleod, an oil analyst with Barclays De Zoete Wedd in London.

But he and other analysts forecast a price slump if the meeting failed to come up with a cut.

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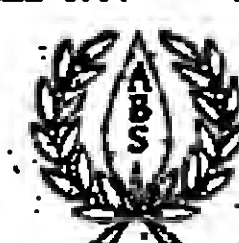
ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the start of the holy month of Ramadan the opening hours for the art exhibition of the Syrian plastic artist Maryo Mousely

Inspirations From Old Damascus

will be 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

4:00 - 6:30 p.m.



Amman Baccalaureate School

Applications are invited for the post of part-time teacher/class music for the coming school year, beginning Aug. 20. Applicants must be qualified teachers, experienced in teaching class music to grades 1 to 3. Ability to teach in English and to play the piano is essential. Familiarity with Carl Orff methods and/or the ability to play an orchestral instrument would be an advantage. A half-time appointment could be available to a candidate who is able to fill all of our requirements.

Application forms are available from this school (telephone 845572) and should be returned by Wednesday April 27.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
CRITICAL CONDITION
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Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625153
MURDER BY DECREE
Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOU GINEMA** «Formerly Opera» Tel: 675573
SECURITY UNLIMITED
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
THE UNTOUCHABLES
Performances 3:30, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Lendl returns to tennis

MONTICARLO (R) — Ivan Lendl ends an injury-enforced absence of two months when he returns to the tennis circuit at the Monte Carlo Open which begins Monday.

Top seed Lendl, whose position as world number one has been eroded considerably this year, has been sidelined by a stress fracture in his right foot and will be playing in Monte Carlo for the first time since he won the tournament in 1985.

Defending champion Mats Wilander of Sweden, whose participation was in doubt because of sinusitis and a high temperature during the week, has recovered sufficiently to keep his place in the draw, which was put back to Sunday to see if he would be fit.

Australian Open champion Wilander, who has closed the gap behind Lendl to fractionally over 22 points in the computer rankings, received a bye, as did the other leading seeds, into the second round.

The presence of West German former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker — a Monte Carlo resident like Wilander — makes it the first tournament of the year featuring Lendl, Wilander and Becker together.

But it will be without Czechoslovak Miroslav Mecir, who has been troubled by a back injury and was ousted by unranked local Shuzo Matsuda in the Japanese Grand Prix last Thursday.

Three years ago Lendl came to Monte Carlo reluctantly, unwilling to sandwich a European tournament between two in the U.S., but left after successfully completing the second leg of a remarkable treble of straight tournament wins on different surfaces.

Monte Carlo is an important clay-court tournament in the run-up to the French Open in five weeks when Lendl aims to keep the title he has won three times in the past four years.

Wilander has made great inroads into Lendl's lead in the computer rankings this year following victories in the Australian Open and Key Biscayne, although he suffered a reverse a week ago when he lost both his singles in the Davis Cup quarter-final against Czechoslovakia.

The Swede, runner-up to Lendl in both the French and U.S. Open finals last year, won the Monte Carlo crown in 1983 and 1987 and was beaten finalist in 1984 and 1985.

Former French Open champion Yannick Noah, who made an early exit last year, looks in good shape following semifinal appearances in Key Biscayne and Dallas and strong form in the French Davis Cup quarter-final win over Australia.

Brazilian soccer star loaned to Cerro Porteno

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Winger Eder, a veteran of Brazil's brilliant 1982 World Cup soccer team, has been transferred on loan to Cerro Porteno of Paraguay by Rio's Botafogo, club officials said Saturday.

The 30-year-old left wing, who scored two goals at the 1982 World Cup in Spain, will sign an eight-month, \$50,000 contract.

In 1983, Eder's former club Atletico Mineiro turned down a five-million-dollar offer from an Arab club. A year later he was sold to Palmeiras for just \$150,000, after club officials became tired of his lack of discipline.

After leaving Atletico Mineiro, Eder wandered through several Brazilian teams, from north to south. His talent was always recognised, but his behaviour on and off the field often brought him trouble.

"Unfortunately, Eder's trouble is his head. He will never straighten out," Jose Luis Carbone, his former coach at Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, told reporters shortly after asking club officials to put the player up for sale.

Eder missed the 1986 World Cup finals when Brazilian head coach Tele Santana dropped him from the 22-man squad two weeks before the team went to Mexico, after he hit a young Peruvian defender and was sent off during a warmup match in Goiania.

When he was hired by Botafogo last year, Eder promised to change. After a few months, however, club officials and the coach decided that he had received more than enough chances to redeem himself. So they accepted Cerro Porteno's offer.

S. African newspaper urges Budd to 'come home'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A major Afrikaans newspaper Sunday invited Zola Budd to "come home" to South Africa after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) suspended her from international competition.

The IAAF Saturday barred Budd from competing for one month and urged the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) to ban the South African-born British athlete for a further 12 months for her involvement in an athletics meeting in South Africa last year.

"Come back home Zola," the Afrikaans-language Rapport newspaper urged in a front-page report.

The paper said its invitation reflected a general feeling in South African athletic circles after the IAAF "handed down a death sentence on Zola Budd's international athletics career."

The IAAF decision came on the final day of the South African senior athletics championships in the orange free state city of Bloemfontein, Budd's hometown.

Rapport quoted Wally Labuschagne, chairman of the Free State Athletics Union, as saying: "They (the IAAF) are looking for a stick with which to beat South Africa. Zola is being made a scapegoat."

"We love her and we want her back with us again," Janette Momborg, deputy chairman of the South African Athletics Union and a personal friend of Budd, told reporters Saturday that the IAAF seemed determined to ban the athlete from the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, later this year.

Budd was clearly surprised by the decision.

"I think Mark maybe won out of 12 rounds maybe three rounds. I am happy to have my title. I think I won the fight unanimously," he said.

His late round antics did not sit well with the fans or the judges but the champion denied that he was clowning.

"I am not into clowning. People get killed in the ring. I outboxed him. I was more aggressive," he said.

Despite his shaky start, Breland said he thought he had pulled out the fight.

"I felt in the early rounds I was stale. I felt very weak. I don't know why. I was up for the fight, I just felt weak," he said but added rather unconvincingly, "I thought I won."

Breland, whose record is 20-1-1, was unimpressive and looked exhausted but he was the aggressor over the final rounds as Starling, apparently believing he was well ahead on points, began clowning.

He would hide behind his gloves, pretend to be hurt, then shake his head and laugh at the challenger. But he threw very few punches in the late rounds.

His failure to take Breland's late challenge seriously very nearly cost Starling his title.

Starling was clearly surprised by the draw.

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TENNIS

McEnroe trounces Edberg in Japan Open Championship

TOKYO (Agencies) — American John McEnroe, serving strongly and volleying well, trounced favoured Stefan Edberg of Sweden 6-2, 6-2 Sunday in the men's singles finals of the Japan Open Tennis Championship.

It was McEnroe's first major victory in 19 months.

McEnroe, the No. 1 men's tennis player in the world from 1981 to 1984 but currently ranked 25th, pocketed \$122,250 out of a total purse of \$627,500.

It was McEnroe's first major tournament since the U.S. Open last September.

Defending champion Edberg, ranked third in the world, took home \$61,125. It was his seventh defeat by McEnroe against one victory.

McEnroe got off to a good start on the hard court of the Ariake Tennis Park in Tokyo, easily taking the first game without losing a point and collecting three points by serves.

Playing before 9,600 spectators, Edberg actively moved to the net but frequently failed to return McEnroe's serves and returns.

McEnroe also broke Edberg's service in the fourth game after a deuce. And in the eighth game, McEnroe went to the net and placed a nice lob to take the first set in 41 minutes.

In the second set, McEnroe fired two passing shots and a smash and broke Edberg's service for a 4-2 lead.

Trailing 0-30 in the eighth game, Edberg double-faulted. Then his ground stroke hit the net in the second set, which lasted in 33 minutes.

After the victory, McEnroe raised his hands into the air in a joyful mood to the cheering of the spectators.

"McEnroe is now about 75-80 per cent, comparing with his best days, and his comeback is possible," said Peter Fleming, McEnroe's coach.

"It's good as McEnroe made a comeback, Edberg, 22, said after the match. "Today, he was better than me, particularly in his serves and returns."

Edberg added: "I was not aggressive today. My serves and returns were not good. McEnroe also moved well. I think he gained the confidence after the first two sets."

After splitting the first two sets, the third-seeded Sabatini came back from deficits of 0-3 and 4-5 in the third to beat Graf for the second straight time after 11 losses.

Navratilova served and volleyed her way into the final of this \$300,000 clay court tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over fourth seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany.

Navratilova held her serve throughout the 59-minute match, while breaking her opponent three times. Kohde-Kilsch led 2-1 in the second set, but Navratilova reeled off the next five games.

She easily broke the West German in the fifth and seventh games and ended the match with an ace.

After splitting the first two sets, the third-seeded Sabatini came back from deficits of 0-3 and 4-5 in the third to beat Graf for the second straight time after 11 losses.

Navratilova, who defeated Sabatini in a final on clay last week said that she is comfortable playing the Argentine.

"I feel like I know her game better each time. The win last week was good because I think I can play better than that. Right now, most of my game is place," said Navratilova.

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John McEnroe

The 17-year-old Argentine fought off a break point that would have put her 4-0 behind in the third set, then rallied to take a 4-3 lead.

The top-seeded West German recovered briefly and won the next two games, breaking the third seed in the eighth at love for a 5-4 lead. Sabatini then began her final charge propelled by a brilliant between-the-legs shot which set up an overhead winner to end the 10th game.

Sabatini then broke her 18-year-old rival in the 11th game and held serve for the match.

"In the third set, I started coming to the net, and she started making mistakes. Since I beat her last time I have more confidence," said Sabatini, ranked fifth in the world.

Though Sabatini won her share of points at the net, it was her patented topspin groundstrokes during long baseline rallies that helped tire out the world number one, whose power game is better suited to shorter points.

Graf, who seemed almost unstoppable last year, suddenly appears vulnerable in 1988.

"I'm not happy at all with the way I played. I had my chances in the third set, but I choked," Graf said.

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Starling retains W

Nicaraguan talks delayed by ceasefire zones issue

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's Sandinista government and contra rebel leaders met in a Managua hotel Sunday for peace talks bogged down over how to operate special ceasefire zones.

The talks, the first to be held in the Nicaraguan capital, are aimed at transforming a 60-day temporary truce signed last month into a permanent peace. They opened Saturday with six hours of negotiations at the Camino Real Hotel on Managua's outskirts.

So far they have been limited to details of how to operate special ceasefire zones created under the preliminary accord signed last month — the stumbling block in lower-level meetings this month. Under the truce, which took effect on April 1, the U.S.-backed contras are supposed to enter special enclaves and then lay down their arms and return to civilian life by stages.

No immediate agreement

A rebel leader, Alfredo Cesar, ruled out immediate agreement on a lasting peace before the technical issues were settled. "In this first round of negotiations in Managua, we will not be able to arrange a permanent ceasefire," he told reporters.

The government said a defini-

tive ceasefire should be the goal and if no agreement was reached on technical matters the talks should proceed to discuss an end to the war.

Outstanding issues included how to deliver a package of U.S. humanitarian aid to the rebels, and a rebel demand to be replenished with military supplies in the ceasefire zones.

A dispute flared Saturday after the rebels demanded the freedom to tour the city during the meeting — an original condition for attending the talks.

The government has permitted the rebels two outings, one to the opposition newspaper La Prensa and the other to the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference.

"They are treating us like prisoners," a rebel leader, Azucena Ferrer, told reporters Saturday night.

Rebel spokesman Bosco Matamoros complained the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) refused to let his delegation attend a mass Sunday at the parish of Roman Catholic primate Cardinal Miguel Obando y

Bravo, an observer at the talks.

Not tourists

But the government said restrictions were imposed for the safety of the 40-strong contra delegation.

"They must understand that they are not a group of tourists but a military group in arms against the government," Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco told a news conference.

There are many Nicaraguan families with relatives killed by the contras.

No leader of the Nicaraguan Resistance umbrella organisation had been permitted to set foot in Managua since taking up arms against what they branded a Communist dictatorship.

But their return Friday night was not the jubilant affair they may have expected after predicting spontaneous outpourings of popular support. The only welcome was from two rebel officials who had arrived earlier.

Virtually all of the rebels participating in the meeting with top-ranking Sandinista leaders live in the United States, whose Congress has backed their struggle with financial aid on and off since 1981. Most have had their first glimpse of Managua in several years.

Panama protesters clash with police

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Hundreds of protesters smashed windows, blocked streets with flaming barricades and clashed with riot police Saturday in a violent demonstration demanding the ouster of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Police fired tear gas and birdshot at about 400 demonstrators, most of them members of a women's group, rallied on the north side of the capital. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

About 300 women, joined later by about 100 residents of the Batania section of the city, set up blazing barricades of trash and tires across some streets and hurled rocks at police.

Some windows in homes and shops were shattered by stones.

The women, members of a union of civic women, marched in the streets following a mass at the Roman Catholic Church of Perpetuo Socorro in Batania. They said they prayed to God "to bring conscience" to the Panamanian military to force Noriega to resign.

At least 10 small police trucks waited outside the church before the protest began.

Carmen Cecilia Capriles, a leader of the protest, said the demonstrators wanted Noriega to resign because "he has the country in bankruptcy because of his evil corruption."

After the mass, the women rallied outside the church waving white handkerchiefs as a sign of protest. They marched carrying rosaries and chanting, "Justice, justice."

Riot squads in trucks used water cannons that sprayed a mixture of tear gas and water at the demonstrators.

Abu Jihad assassination likened to ANC killings

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's leading newspaper Sunday likened the assassination of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) military chief with recent slayings of African National Congress (ANC) functionaries.

"It is interesting to note how the Zionist state of Israel and the apartheid regime in Pretoria are using similar methods of terror and murder against leading personalities in the PLO and the African National Congress," the Sunday Mail said in an editorial.

"But the struggle for the liberation of Palestine and that being waged for the liberation of South Africa and Namibia cannot be held back by the assassination of individuals, however systematic."

Italian guerrillas, silent for a year, kill premier's aide

ROME (R) — Italian left-wing guerrillas, silent for more than a year, have shot dead a close aide of Italy's new prime minister Ciriaco de Mita in what he termed an attack on his dominant Christian Democrat Party.

Police said Senator Roberto Ruffilli, also a Christian Democrat, was killed Saturday by two shots in the back of the neck while alone at home in the central city of Forli.

Police sources said Ruffilli, a 50-year-old bachelor, was shot after having been forced to kneel before his killers.

The murder was discovered after a telephone call to a newspaper on behalf of the Fighting Communist Party claimed responsibility, saying it had "struck the heart of the state."

The group is a hardline offshoot of the Red Brigades which conducted a campaign of violence in the 1970s, killing 17 public figures, including former Christian Democrat prime minister Aldo Moro. Italy marked the 10th anniversary of the Moro kidnapping last month.

De Mita, who formed Italy's 48th post-war government last Wednesday and is due to present it to parliament Tuesday, condemned the shooting as an attack on democracy.

He said the Christian Democrats, who have dominated Italian political life since the end of the Second World War, had "paid a new and terrible price for its responsibility as a great national party and guarantor of 40 years of freedom and democracy."

Ruffilli was little known in mainstream politics but was a member of the Commission for Constitutional Affairs and had been one of de Mita's principal advisers on plans for major reforms to Italy's political institutions.

Politicians on all sides expressed horror at the shooting, including the Communist daily L'Unita

which said in an editorial that it "re-evoked the dark years of terror."

Most members of the Red Brigades were rounded up and jailed in the early 1980s. But hard-line remnants have carried out attacks regularly around the Moro anniversary.

Last January police arrested a guerrilla suspected of belonging to the Fighting Communist Party near the Rome home of de Mita and said the group may have been planning an attack against the Christian Democrat leader.

Anti-terrorism investigators said Saturday that the Ruffilli killing may have been linked to that plot, or that the guerrillas had turned their attention instead to the senator whose lower public profile made him an easy target.

The last urban guerrilla killing in Italy was in March 1987 when the Fighting Communists Union shot dead Air Force General Licio Giorgieri in Rome.

U.S. urged to try cooperation, negotiated solution in Panama

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. failure to oust Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega is increasing calls from members of Congress, Central American leaders and outside experts for a negotiated solution to the Panama crisis.

U.S. officials also are listening to negotiations as one of several options, but they still hope that Panama's severe cash shortage and continued payless paydays for thousands of government workers will prompt Noriega's departure.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said during a visit to Washington last week that the economic sanctions the United

States imposed have punished the Panamanian people more than they have Noriega.

He recommended a negotiated settlement and said that the United States should cooperate with other Central American countries in finding a solution. Unilateral action only leaves President

Ronald Reagan's administration isolated, Arias said.

Following a briefing Thursday by State Department and Pentagon officials, Senate Foreign Relations Committee members generally agreed the administration must do more to seek a diplomatic solution.

Hong Kong Filipina maids ask for Aquino's help

HONG KONG (R) — About 2,000 slogan-shouting Filipina domestic workers called for better treatment and conditions in Hong Kong Sunday while their president, Corazon Aquino, prayed for the future of her country inside a small Roman Catholic church.

Union officials representing 30,000 Philippine maids in Hong Kong, some carrying placards and posters, presented a petition to Aquino outside the church.

The maids chanted "We want to see Cory" or "Cory, don't let us down," after they were told that Aquino could not meet them because of her tight schedule.

About 50 of their representatives were later allowed into the church to have mass with the president, who briefly explained to them that her recent decision to ban export of Philippine domestic workers was to protect their interests.

The maids dispersed peacefully without incidents after the one-hour mass.

A spokeswoman for the Filipinas, Cynthia Tellez, told repor-

ters that Philippine officials accompanying Aquino on the 22-hour visit to the British colony had agreed to look into their grievances.

She said these including meagre wages and alleged abuses by their employers and by Hong Kong immigration officials.

Aquino earlier met the Wilson's governor, Sir David Wilson, and other officials to discuss trade relations and immigration issues.

She called on Hong Kong businesspeople, who are among the largest investors in the Philippines, to set up more factories in her country.

"I invite you to see and judge for yourselves whether or not I am right in asserting that there is a great future in the Philippines of which you can be a part," she said.

Security was tightened in Hong Kong after newspaper reports that rebel Philippine Army officers, including escaped commander Colonel Gregorio Honasan, might threaten her safety while she is in Hong Kong.

FBI exploring links between Jersey arrest, Naples bombing

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — FBI agents investigating a possible link between the arrest of a Japanese man carrying pipe bombs on the New Jersey Turnpike and the fatal bombing of a USO club in Naples went to Italy Saturday, officials said.

Forensics experts and other Federal Bureau of Investigation agents travelled to Italy at the request of Italian authorities, who believe the bombing there was carried out by members of Japan's Red Army guerrilla group, said FBI agent Jeff Maynard in Washington.

Yu Kikumura, identified by the Japanese Foreign Ministry as a suspected Red Army member, was arrested Tuesday at a New Jersey Turnpike service area in Ridgefield after a state trooper found three sophisticated homemade bombs and falsified papers in his possession, authorities said.

On Thursday, a bomb planted in a car and parked at the USO club in Naples exploded, killing five people, including an American servicewoman.

FBI bomb experts were attempting to learn if the explosive used in the Naples bombing was the same as that found in New Jersey, authorities said.

"There is a lot of interest in this," Maynard said. "It would be common sense for us to look into

it to see if there is any connection."

Kikumura, 35, was ordered held without bail Friday by a U.S. magistrate in Newark. He was charged with using a fraudulent visa to enter the country, and possession of firearms. A preliminary hearing was set for April 25.

Authorities with the FBI and U.S. attorney's office have refused to discuss any information they may have about where Kikumura was headed at the time of his arrest.

They also declined to comment on a report in Saturday's editions of the New York Times that suggested Kikumura might have been headed for a meeting of finance ministers of the world's seven major industrial democracies in Washington. The ministers, sometimes referred to as the Group of Seven, ended their meeting Wednesday.

"There are all sorts of press reports and we're not going to comment on any of them," said Jim Knights, an FBI spokesman in Newark.

The Red Army claimed responsibility for bomb and rocket attacks last June 9 on the U.S. and British embassies in Rome while the leaders of seven Western nations were holding their annual summit in Venice.

Democrats focus fire on Reagan, Bush

ROCHESTER, New York (R) — The Democratic presidential candidates in a televised debate Saturday turned their fire from each other towards the likely Republican nominee Vice-President George Bush.

Rather than attack each others' positions, frontrunner Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, civil rights activist Jesse Jackson and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore repeatedly lashed out at Bush and President Reagan.

"We have guided missiles but misguided leadership," said Jackson, shown by polls to be closing the gap between himself and Dukakis ahead of Tuesday's New York Primary, considered pivotal in the race for the Democratic nomination.

A New York Daily News poll published Sunday said the state primary was too close to call among registered Democrats who said they would definitely vote. That segment gave Dukakis 48 per cent, Jackson 42 per cent and Gore 10 per cent. A wider sampling gave Dukakis 51 per cent, Jackson 37 and Gore 10.

The poll also said Dukakis was the only Democrat who would beat Republican Bush, 47 per cent to 37 per cent, in the New York general election. Bush would beat Gore, 45 per cent to 35 per cent, and rounce Jackson, 51 per cent to 32 per cent.

Of the three, Gore made the harshest attacks.

"This administration has been the most irresponsible in managing the defence budget and the overall budget of any administration in the history of this coun-

try," Gore said.

Dukakis said the fact that Bush appears to have clinched the nomination months before the Republican convention, while Democrats continue to battle, is an advantage for his party.

"I think we're making more Democrats" by continuing to run against each other while the Republican contest is all but won by Bush, he said in the third debate of the state contest.

"I think the continued contest helps the Democrats," Dukakis said when asked whether the Democrats were diminishing their chances for victory in November by fighting each other.

Throughout the hour-long debate, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, the Democrats showed surface unity among themselves — against Reagan and Bush — on issues including defence, the environment and the war on drugs.

Only on Mideast policy, a point of contention throughout the Democratic primary season, did the candidates differ.

Jackson defended a past embrace of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat while Dukakis and Gore argued that the United States should not negotiate with the PLO until it recognises Israel's right to exist.

"The Pope met with Yasser Arafat as well... because it was the right thing to do," Jackson said. "To help secure Israel, you must convince Israel's adversaries to make a basic adjustment that the move toward mutual recognition was the thing to."

Industrialised world presses educational reform

By Persia Walker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Some of the world's industrialised nations are worried about their educational systems, fearing they may be failing to prepare students adequately for the 21st century.

Their concerns are as varied as their cultural and political traditions, but they share a common goal: To develop a competitive labour force for a time when high-tech industries will demand workers who can solve complex problems and communicate effectively.

The United States is battling rising student dropout rates and a dearth of quality teachers.

French authorities worry that a rigorously selective education system is shunting too many people into low-level schools where they won't learn top skills.

Soviet officials fear their schools are dispensing learning that has become largely outdated, and that their country is falling behind the West.

Japan is smarting from criticism that it regiments pupils, stifling their creativity.

In Britain, Sweden and West Germany, too, educational systems are coming in for a tough new appraisal.

Unlike most other nations, the United States has no centralised curriculum and no national standards for academic excellence. States and local school districts control the quality of learning.

Critics say the system has led to glaring disparities between regional levels of academic achievement, but supporters say it also permits a great deal of innovation.

U.S. schools as a whole have boosted teacher salaries and toughened graduation standards for the nation's 12.5 million public high school students. Early

reform efforts concentrated on beefing up studies in Science and Mathematics. More recent concern has focused on History and Literature.

Even so, U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett recently concluded that student test scores nationwide "are in a dead stall." And critics say reform efforts have largely bypassed urban schools, many of which have many impoverished students and suffer from understaffing, overcrowding and dilapidated conditions.

Problem and solution

For Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who is trying to reconstruct society and modernise the economy, the Soviet school is both a problem and a solution.

Soviet authorities are reexamining how the rigidly centralised curriculum prepares the country's 57 million school pupils and university students for life, and questioning whether rote learning, long the mainstay of Soviet education, should not yield at least in part to free debate.

Four years ago, party officials said Soviet schools would begin to stress trade skills. But now authorities say more emphasis should be placed on cultural studies and intellectual development.

Experts debate whether to continue to channel students into trade schools after eight years of schooling or require all students to take 10 years of general education.

The trade schools also are being examined. Some say they provide training that is outdated and irrelevant to the demands of the modern workplace.

Britain's schools, attended by 7 million children through secondary school, are also a major target of government-sponsored

reform.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's administration has proposed a national, uniform curriculum that stresses hard academic subjects and requires regular student testing.

It is proposing that inner cities areas be the sites of new secondary schools that emphasise technology and require students to continue a foreign language and science through age 16. Now most can drop such subjects at age 14.

By the 21st century, the British government hopes to raise the proportion of youth who pursue their education past secondary school. In 1987, only 14 per cent of British youth aged 18-19 were still in classes.

Critics say France's mercilessly selective education system is itself to blame for the numbers of French youth who don't survive secondary school.

The winnowing process that determines who will be steered toward trade schools or encouraged to pursue higher studies starts at about age 13.

Many students eventually are shunted into technical training, their future contributions to society having been determined in early adolescence.

The system grooms academically-minded students for the dreaded baccalaureate, the several-day-long high school exam. But it lets others fall by the wayside — and tends to brand them as losers," said a 1984 report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

A little more than 40 per cent of French students finish high school. Fewer than one quarter pursue higher studies at a university of prestigious "grande école," said Olivier Bertrand of the government-run Centre for the Study and Research of Qual-

ifications, which surveys education issues.

Too narrow

West Germany's education reformers say students are highly schooled in narrow areas. Students themselves complain of being strong in theory but weak in practical knowledge.

Experts say the students' high school level education is overspecialised.

"There have been cases of excellent knowledge in specific areas, in Physics, for example, mixed with a horrible absence of knowledge in another," said Gregor Berghorn, a spokesman for the 12,000-member West German University Professors' Association.

West Germany's 11 states agreed in January to place greater emphasis on broad-based subjects such as mathematics, natural sciences, history and foreign languages to rebalance training at the gymnasium level.

Japanese students have consistently garnered superior scores in international testing programmes, often outscoring their foreign counterparts by wide margins.

But beneath the national pride afforded by a 99 per cent literacy rate, critics say Japan's education system has begun to falter.

Exerting intense pressure on students to succeed in entrance exams for well-known schools affiliated with prestigious universities, the system has created cutthroat competition with sometimes painful results.

Scholastic pressure usually ranks as the no. 1 reason in national police agency reports for driving youths to suicide. In 1986, 136 youths killed themselves because of school. Last year, the number totalled 207.

Too rigid

Much of the criticism has

targeted the regimented school curricula laid down by government-dictated guidelines. Critics say the nationally uniform materials stymie creativity and smother individual growth.

"Too much emphasis is given to the memorisation of academic subjects without students understanding the core of the material," said Shigeo Miyamoto, a director at Tokyo's National Institute for Educational Research.

Admirers of Sweden's nationalised curriculum, instituted in a sweeping reform programme 25 years ago, say it has made a good education available to everyone, regardless of wealth or background.

But critics say it has led to mediocrity, and argue that "being average is not enough."

Per Ueckel, a Conservative parliament member, claimed the school system has led to a misguided "general ideal of equality."

Sweden has traditionally stressed business and technology in higher education and post-graduate work, and now faces complaints about the deterioration in proficiency in the humanities and foreign languages.

The world's most highly developed nations apparently have come to the same conclusion — that education can be key to success or failure.

During a recent Soviet Communist Party meeting, Yegor K. Ligachev, the Kremlin's no. 2 leader, tied the success of school reform to the fate of Gorbachev's entire campaign for economic and social change.

"The general educational and professional preparation of this generation, the world outlook and moral values it will acquire on this, to a large extent, depend... the future of our country and the fate of socialism itself," he said.

COLUMN 8

Swedish royals visit Garbo

NEW YORK (R) — The King and Queen of Sweden made an unscheduled visit to reclusive Hollywood legend Greta Garbo Saturday. King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia used a morning break in their official schedule to visit Garbo, 82, at her East Side Manhattan apartment overlooking the East River. "It was a private visit among friends," said Commander Bror Schwilke, a royal escort who said he waited downstairs during the visit with the Swedish-born cinema star, who forsook the screen for her solitary life in 1941. While the royal couple confirmed they had stolen time for the private visit, they would not tell reporters any details of the visit, nor would they answer questions about Garbo's health, rumoured to be frail. "It is out of respect," for Garbo that they would not describe her condition or the meeting, said the queen. Royal spokeswoman Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg said, "They hadn't wanted it (the visit) to come out in the press."

Getting rich for no reason

DALLAS (R) — Texas may be in an economic recession, but when a local disc jockey asked listeners to send in \$20 — for no reason at all — the radio station ended up with \$243,000 in donations. "We're flabbergasted. We never promised anybody anything," said Ron Chapman, a morning disc jockey at radio station KVIL-FM. He said he had expected about 350 responses. Chapman made the request March 31 and the next morning \$20 cheques started flooding in. Finally, last Monday, the station asked its listeners not to send any more cheques. The deadline prompted some people to drive to the station's office to slip cheques under the door, Chapman said. In all, about 12,150 listeners sent cheques. He said the station would probably give the money to charity. "We don't want anyone to think he hoodwinked (our listeners). We think they had a lot of faith in us that we'll do something good."

No place to skin a beaver

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Four University of Minnesota football players were evicted and their dormitory rooms declared uninhabitable after animal remains were found in a blood-spattered room belonging to two of them, school officials said last week. "It couldn't be lived in the way it was," said Ken Rees, an environmental hygiene officer for the university. In addition to animal blood, "there was piles of debris, lots of just old beer bottles, dirt, trash." The team had used one of the rooms to skin small game they had trapped. Rees, who declared the rooms unfit following an inspection March 11, said parts of a beaver were found in the room, which had a "very pungent" odour. "There was blood on the walls, ceiling, furniture and carpeting. I assume it was just that one (animal)," he said. "The only identifiable part was the beaver tail." The other room, located across the hall, was "just trashed," he said. "There was glass, broken glass, in the carpeting, the furnishings were broken and torn," he said. Chuck Lawrence, the university's housing director, said Friday he ordered the four evicted.

Taking mom to a murder

WASHINGTON (R) — It happened half a century ago, but former gangster Angelo Lonardo remembers it well — the day he took his mother to a murder. Lonardo, 77, described his first killing at a Senate hearing Friday on the vast criminal enterprise known as La Cosa Nostra (LCN) or "Our Thing." Vengeance, not business, led Lonardo to kill Salvatore Todaro, the man who murdered his father in 1927. He said he had arranged with his cousin Dominic Spasiano to kill Todaro. His mother was an unwitting accomplice in the plot, he told the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. He said his mother agreed to go with him and his cousin to meet Todaro to ask for financial help. "We drove down to 110th Street... there was someone standing there... and we told him if he would see if Sam Todaro was there. My mother would like to talk to him," he said. "All of a sudden we see Sam Todaro come around the corner walking towards our car... and as soon as he got about four feet, five feet away from me I got out the gun and started shooting. He was hollering and screaming and... we pulled away. We had mother in the car and she was screaming and yelling... we had bad about having mother with us."